INDIANA UNIVERSITY • PURDUE UNIVERSITY • FORT WAYNE

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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Volume 36, Issue 28 www.ipfwcommunicator.org 12 Pages, 1 Section, Free

# 'Most controversial election ever'

■ *Only 336 out of approximately 12,000 students voted*

By Allison Graber & Brianna Belford
news@ipfwcommunicator.org

The recently held IPSGA elections were full of drama and disputes. Divergence of opinions over the extent of freedom of speech applies to IPSGA candidates at IPFW, caused tensions to run high, even ending in a police report in one case.

"This has probably been the most controversial election at IPFW ever," Joe Kiszka, a member of the election board said, while fidgeting in his chair. Many participants in the election agree, but the extent to which the controversy goes is where opinions deviate.

The question arose in this election whether or not the election board has the right to censor speech before it is spoken or distributed to IPFW students.

Lydia Holliger, who ran for vice president of programming, disapproved of the way the elections were run.

"The election board took liberties beyond what has ever been taken before," she said, and added that every campaign slogan had to be "pre-approved."

Kiszka, who played a part in enforcing the rule of no negative campaigning, disagreed markedly with the accusation of pre-censorship.

"The rule is there. It's not there to censor the candidates. It is there to protect the candidates from slander."

The First Amendment protects speech in the United States to the extent it is not defamatory or considered fighting words.

The issue was brought to the forefront of people's minds as Danny Epple, a felon, ran for vice president of programming. One campaign slogan submitted to, and rejected by, the election board was "I am not a crook," a joke playing off of Richard Nixon's famous words. The election board's reasoning for rejecting the slogan was that it consisted of slanderous material.

"We were never told we could not

**MORE INSIDE:**
An exclusive interview with Danny Epple delves into the intimacies of his everyday life.

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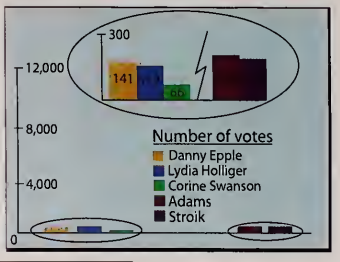


# Soaking up the New Year

By Allison Graber
news@ipfwcommunicator.org

The Army National Guard Armory on Cook Road was bustling with excitement on Saturday as the Burmese community in Fort Wayne, interspersed with community members of diverse backgrounds, ushered in a new year on the lunar calendar.

The New Year Water Festival, also known as Thingyan, is celebrated in many Southeast Asian countries including Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The word Thingyan means change, thus it represents the arriving of a new year.

Upon entering the gym, two people greeted attendees with a sprinkle of water for good luck for the next year.

The water used at the festival, traditionally the result of soaking leaves in water from a Htayaw tree, is significant for the Burmese. The purpose of dowsing friends and family with water is because it is seen as a purifier.

"You are cleaning up your spirit and washing out your misdeeds," Sein Htway, an eight year member of the Fort Wayne Burmese community, said.

Celebrating the arrival of the year 1368, those in attendance found themselves staring at a stage with a colorful curtain of red, blue, green, purple and brown. Not only did the incense from the front of the room brighten the senses, but the smell of food from the kitchen, with garlic, cilantro and tamarind, allowed for excitement in the taste buds of the visitors.

Lori Howard, a former IPFW student, attended because of an invitation her husband received. She thought it was important to participate in multicultural activities.

"We live in a diverse world," she said, "and so we need to be diversified."

The service began with a prayer to Buddha. Young girls bowed before a Buddha sculpture on stage that was lit up by the candles lined up in front of it. As a man led the celebrants in the prayer, he bowed and clasped his hands in front of him, always facing Buddha.

Girls with matching dresses performed traditional Burmese dances. Burmese performers sung songs as well that reflected the Burmese Culture.

At one point a man was invited up by the Master of Ceremony to speak. He was Reverend James Keller. With words of encouragement he entreated the Burmese community to stay strong and united despite the announcement that Nishakawa Standard, a factory in New Haven, will pull out of Fort Wayne in a year and a half.

Rev. Keller explained that many Burmese are employed by Nishakawa and face losing their jobs or moving with the company to its new locations.

"Think about starting your own business here in Fort Wayne," he implored the Burmese. The rest of the afternoon

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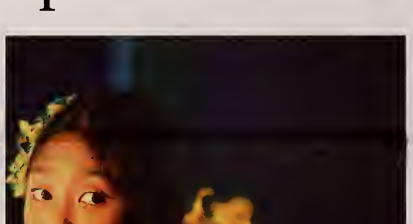

Photo by Eugene Harding / news@ipfwcommunicator.org

**BURMA:** A dancer of the Burmese Water Festival looks backstage during a performance Saturday.

# Simple problems

■ *Gas prices could reach critical levels this summer*

By Kira Schowe
news@ipfwcommunicator.org

**2.97**

What do these numbers have in common: 1.89, 2.20, 2.67 and 2.98? These are all gas prices. Over the past year, prices have raised an average of 30 cents a gallon and rumor has it that prices will reach $5 by mid summer.

It all comes down to supply and demand. Old wells are drying up and this requires production of new wells, but there is a delay of getting approval of where to dig. This delay creates a shortage of oil causing industries to hike up the prices. The high gasoline prices have had only a modest impact on the driving habits of Americans.

"People are wealthier, they've been enticed into buying homes further from work and the auto industry has been enticing them into buying very inefficient vehicles," said Philip K. Verleger, an oil consultant.

Another main reason for the increase in prices is the ban of the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether, also known as MTBE. This came about due to the fact MTBE was detected in ground water. Gasoline without MTBE is expensive to produce and requires refineries to change their production and distribution of gasoline.

"Prices have further been driven up by two recent government-mandated fuel reformulations and a requirement that corn-based ethanol be added to some gasoline. Those steps make the process of refining gasoline more expensive," Trilby Lundberg, the publisher of the Lundberg Survey, said.

Speculation about Iran's nuclear program is also causing sharp rises in gas prices. This is especially going to be an issue as the summer progresses. As the Iran nuclear program continues, the United States has stated that massive embargoes on trade are possible, and this has been speculated to cause oil to rise over $100 a barrel.

Furthermore, as tensions rise in Africa, Chad has halted all oil production and export as rebels continue to threaten the current government. This unsteady region of Africa will only continue to affect oil prices as the Sudan conflicts continue to rage and rebellions in Chad keep their oil off the world market.

What are Americans going to do if gas does reach $5 a gallon? Carpooling is always an option but when asking around a number of

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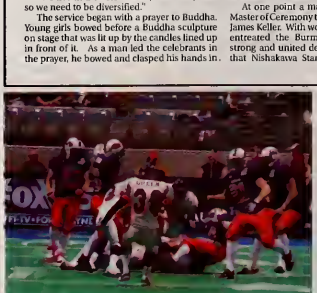

Photo by Brianna Belford / news@ipfwcommunicator.org

**FREEDOM:** SAB and IPSGA will be giving away tickets to Saturday's game against the undefeated Sioux Falls.

# Fling into Spring

By Andrew C. Hoover
achoover@ipfwcommunicator.org

By now you have seen the blue shirts with John Belushi's iconic "college." The shirts mark the beginning of IPFW's 2006 Spring Fling. The IPSGA and the Student Activities Board bring this annual event to you.

The giant event features many exciting events to bring IPFW together as a community for the final weeks of class. Every day this week, a different movie and theme will pervade the day, with the biggest events reserved for Saturday's "Recess" day.

On Tuesday, the Honor Society held an obstacle course in order to "Represent your Nerd!" in honor of "Reverge of the Nerds" day. The obstacle course was humorously on the grassy knoll and cost a dollar. Jennifer Rusk and Chancellor Wartel were both scheduled to take part in spinning around in circles, hitting piñatas and racing around on comically under-sized tricycles, but cancelled on Monday according to Honor Society member Katie Casey.

On Wednesday, Grease Carnival Day, the Red Cross will be on campus for a blood drive. This blood drive is special in that student organizations are given tickets to pass out to the

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Indiana-Purdue Student Newspapers, Inc.
Walb Union, Suite 215
2101 Coliseum Blvd. East
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Newsroom: (260) 481-6584
Fax: (260) 481-6045
Advertising Dept.: (260) 481-6583
E-mail: contact@ipfwcommunicator.org

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# THE COMMUNICATOR

A publication of Indiana-Purdue Student Newspapers, Inc.

## Editorial Board

**Brianna Belford**
Editor-in-Chief
bbelford@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Jamie Miller**
Managing Editor
jmiller@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Lana Mabbitt**
Advertising Manager
lmabbitt@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Amy Dunnuck**
Copy Editor
adunnuck@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Eugene Harding**
Photo Editor
eharding@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Nick West**
Sports Editor
nwest@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Dan Vance**
A&E Editor
dvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Andres Ponte**
Design Editor
aponte@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Andrew C. Hoover**
News Editor
ahoover@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Publisher**
**Doris Reynolds**
(260) 481-6585
dreynolds@ipfwcommunicator.org

## Contact Us

**IPSN Inc.**
Walb Union Suite 215
2101 Coliseum Blvd. East
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

**Newsroom / Editor**
(260) 481-6584
contact@ipfwcommunicator.org

**Advertising**
(260) 481-6583
ads@ipfwcommunicator.org


## Editorial Policy

Editorials are the opinions of "The Communicator". The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of IPFW, its employees or its student body. A column is solely the opinion of its author

The Communicator welcomes responses. Letters to the Editor must be signed, dated and accompanied by a current address, telephone number and class standing/major or title (if applicable). Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered for publication.

All submissions made via email will be verified by telephone or in person. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Submissions must be typed, and no more than 700 words.

The editorial board of The Communicator reserved the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, style, and clarity. Letters deemed potentially libelous by the editorial board will not be published under any circumstances

# Spicing up ISO banquet

By Andrew C. Hoover
ahoover@ipfwcommunicator.org

Photo contributed by Nick Mboya / news@ipfwcommunicator.org

The 16th annual International Student Organization Banquet is going to be held on April 22 at 5 p.m. in the Walb ballroom. This annual event is the highlight of the ISO calendar year, and this year is no exception.

This year, the banquet will have a theme focus on Nigeria, bringing to life the bright and colorful culture of this African nation. The banquet will feature many exciting performances, displays and dancing all featuring the nation of Nigeria and her rich history and culture.

Performances for the banquet include presentations about China and the Global Christian Fellowship is tentatively expected to perform a piano piece. The ISO will be having a fashion show that will highlight Nigeria but include many European, African and Asian styles and nations. The group "Friends of the 3rd World" will be at the event to present artifacts from around the globe.

Of course, the ISO Banquet is famous for its food, and this year the food will be from Nigeria, keeping with the theme. Nicholas Ochieng, the ISO vice president, explained that Nigerian food is a mix of vegetarian and meat dishes that can be a little spicy.

The dishes also often feature rice and couscous and many have yams prepared in a variety of ways.

The banquet will also have many vegetables from Nigeria in a variety of dishes that feature the flavors of ginger and coriander spice, all of which are pounded instead of ground in traditional Nigerian cooking.

Coriander is a sweetly aromatic flavor that is slightly lemony. A zesty combination of sage and citrus, coriander is actually thought to increase the appetite, according to the McCormick spice company.

The ISO is a community-service group that seeks to help international immigrants and students adjust to IPFW and Fort Wayne. The group offers many services to new immigrants including clothing, meals and various other outreach programs.

The group will be having elections soon, and Ochieng pointed out that only two officers are returning for the 2006-07 year, leaving many exciting vacancies to be filled.

As Ochieng graduates with his MBA in business administration, he leaves with many nice things to say about IPFW and plans to encourage others to come to IPFW, including his own cousin.

Ochieng claims that international students enjoy IPFW because it is "laid back" with "many benefits from the allegiance to IU and PU."

He added, "The atmosphere and the location are very good, it is a very nice place."

The cost makes it easy for international students to come here and still get the IU name.

The banquet will also be a reward ceremony in which the ISO honors those who have helped the international community here in Fort Wayne, including Linda Simon of IPFW's student life, the IPFW IPSGA, the African Immigrant Ministry and many others.

The ISO, Black Collegiate Caucus, IPSGA and DiversEquality sponsor the 16th Annual ISO Banquet.

The ISO has received help in the past from the Bangladesh and Burmese student groups.

The event is from 5 to 9 p.m. on April 22 in the Walb Union Ballroom. The event is free to IPFW students with ID and children under 12.

It is $3 for children over 12 and $8 for all other guests.

Guests are encouraged to come in clothing from their native nation or different region of the U.S.

# Campus Calendar

IPFW

*for April 20-26, 2006*

**20** **University Religious Forum:** "America's Homeless Children," WU 114, noon–1:15 p.m. For information, call 16992.

**Athletic Event:** Softball vs. Valparaiso, 3 p.m. For information, call 16643.

**Education Literary Event:** WU Ballroom, 4–6 p.m., For information, call 16807.

**20/20 Vision Lecture:** "Oil Shock.wave," WU Ballroom, 7 p.m. For information, call 16888

**Movie and Discussion:** *Crash*, Lamar Dixon, moderator, CM 159, 7 p.m. For information, call 16608

**21** **International Information Day:** WU, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. For information, call 16494

**Biology Senior Seminar:** Donald Cunningham, Holly Rowe, and Keith Derickson, presenters; SB 185, noon. For information, call 16305.

**Athletic Events:** Women's Tennis vs. Texas A&M Corpus Christi, 10 a.m.; vs. Northern Colorado, 3 p.m. For information, call 16643.

**Senoir B.F.A. Exhibition Opening Reception:** Kochmann Gallery, 1301 Lafayette St., 6–9 p.m.; exhibition continues through May 6. For information, call 16709.

**Concert:** Choral Union and Chamber Singers, NF Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714

**Theatre:** *Story Theatre*, WT, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 16555

**Institute for Human Rights Conference:** Ft. Wayne Chamber of Commerce Building; also April 22. Free for IPFW students. For information, call 16364.

**22** **Athletic Event:** Women's Tennis vs. Texas Pan American, 10 a.m. For information, call 16643

**Friendship and Unity Banquet:** WU Ballroom, 5–9 p.m., free for children 12 and under and IPFW students. Limited number of tickets available in KT 104 For information, call 16674

**Concert:** Guitar Ensemble, NF Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714

**Fort Wayne Collegiate Ball:** Memorial Coliseum, 7:30–11:30 p.m. For information, call 419-204-8914; for tickets, call 16586.

**Theatre:** *Story Theatre*, WT, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 16555.

**23** **Concert:** IPFW University Singers and Symphonic Wind Ensemble; Plymouth Congregational Church, 2:30 p.m. For information, call 16714.

**Phi Kappa Phi Spring Initiation:** SB 168, 2 p.m. For information, call 16511.

**24** **Philosophy Club:** KT 246, noon–1 p.m. For information, call 16366.

**Eating Disorder Support Group:** WU 234, 6:30–8:30 p.m. For information, call 16647 or e-mail tillapau@ipfw.edu.

**Concert:** IPFW Community Orchestra, Student Concerto and Aria Competition winners; NF Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714

**25** **Spanish Table:** ¡Ven a conversar y comer con nosotros! WU Cafeteria, noon; bring a sack lunch. For information, call 16689 or e-mail conforth@ipfw.edu.

**ACCS Workshop:** Job Search and Workplace Issues for LGBTA Students, WU G21, noon–1 p.m. RSVP to 16138.

**26** **High Tea at the Ft. Wayne Museum of Art:** 5–7 p.m. In celebration of the new B.S. degree in interior design; honored guests are the 2006 interior design graduates. Museum galleries open

**College Ring Ceremony:** WU 222, 6–7 p.m. For information, call 16807.

**IPFW Dinner Series:** "Murder Mystery Meal," Holiday Inn Fort Wayne, 6:30 p.m. For tickets, call 757-270-0900 or 16562

*This od courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor*

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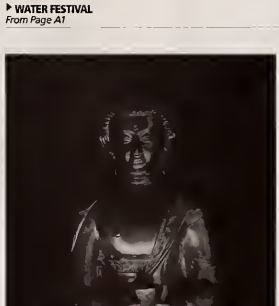
▸ GAS
*From Page A1*

unique responses came about: riding a bike 30 miles, buying a horse or starting a taxi service that charges extreme prices.

On a more logical approach, there are several ways to conserve a gallon of gas: keep your engine tuned, keep your tires properly inflated, check and replace your air filter every 12,000 miles, use the right motor oil and lastly do not carry junk in your trunk.

It isn't a fact that gas prices will reach $5 a gallon, but economists do predict a rise of at least 40 cents. So this summer when you want to drive somewhere, take the cheap way: your own two feet.

▸ WATER FESTIVAL
*From Page A1*

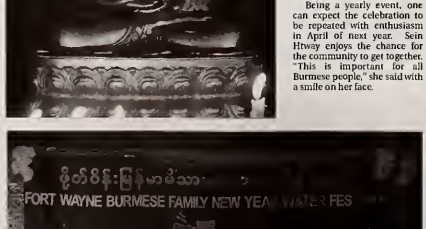


consisted of entertainment, including a band that played modern Burmese music, for the hundreds of people in attendance. The food consisted of fried noodles, seafood, fried rice with vegetables and a dessert made with tapioca.

Little girls in dresses ran around playfully with yellow flowers in their hair, which represent the New Year Festival. Outside children played with water, guns and sprayed each other with water. Inside on a screen, set up to the left of the stage, Burmese television shows were played as well as videos showing people spraying each other with water.

With a Burmese population of around 1,500 in Fort Wayne, it makes one of the largest Burmese populations in the United States.

Being a yearly event, one can expect the celebration to be repeated with enthusiasm in April of next year. Sein Htway enjoys the chance for the community to get together. "This is important for all Burmese people," she said with a smile on her face.




Photos by Eugene Harding / news@ipfwcommunicator.org

BURMA: Dancers perform Saturday at the National Guard Armory, which was rented by the Fort Wayne Burmese Family New Year, Water Festival.

## News Briefs

# International Information Day highlights IPFW

The Office of International Programs, together with the ILCS, will be sponsoring an International Information Day in the Walb Union on April 21 from 9 to 1pm. The event will strive to expose students to the advantages and opportunities here at IPFW to an international perspective. The event will highlight the study of foreign languages, the International Studies Certificate, study abroad programs and the international alliances here on campus. There will be free food and games.

# IPFW AmeriCorp honored by Governor

The IPFW AmeriCorps and Indiana Reading Corps Program Coordinator Kyaw Soe won the 2006 Governor's National Service of Volunteerism Award on April 10. The award was announced at the Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism in Indianapolis. Soe had demonstrated the necessary outstanding services and commitments to his community here in Indiana.

Mr. Soe is a father of two and dedicated over 2,688 hours of service to the AmeriCorps at an excellent level. He trained 123 college students and volunteers in teaching 124 children how to read. Soe is also responsible for founding the Burmese Children Literacy Program in 2003 and starting the annual literacy fair, Aung San Suu Kyi Day in order to honor the 1991 Noble Peace prizewinner and other remarkable women of Burma. The Aung San Suu Kyi Day is on June 18 and has been recognized by both Senator John McCain and Congressman Mark Souder.

To learn more about Soe and about Aung San Suu Kyi Literacy Fair, go to www.ircfotwayne.8k.com

# Lisa Grier honored

Lisa Grier is the winner of the Phi Kappa Phi Award of Excellence this year. She is a senior political science student here at IPFW. Grier is one of 40 students who received the Phi Kappa Phi Award, which is for students entering their first year of graduate study.

Grier was also the Lugar Student Scholar and has been a Chancellor Scholar for her entire career here at IPFW. She graduates in May and intends to pursue a law degree.

Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest and largest all-discipline academic honor society. It was established in 1897 to "recognize and promote academic excellence and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

Congrats to Lisa Grier for her many academic achievements.

# Destroyed but not defeated

■ *Sneaking glimpses here and there, Danny Epple finally speaks*

By Brianna Belford
news@ipfwcommunicator.org

Eyes closed tight fighting back the tears, sophomore Danny Epple struggles to compose the sentence he only wishes words could express. With a heavy sigh he looks out the window, silent tears saying so much more than the sobs he's been choking on since August when he drove drunk and caused an accident that killed IPFW professor John Manzer.

A communications major, Epple spent his time prior to the accident as a full-time honors student who was active in the student government. Epple has been appointed to numerous student government committees and has been a representative of IPFW at conferences for student activities. Not even his involvement in his communications studies and student government can eclipse, however, the events that transpired in August.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't have a feeling in my stomach about what happened," said Epple staring into his hands as if searching for the answers to the questions left unspoken. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about it. And it's going to be with me for the rest of my life."

And although Epple understands he is potentially facing a large amount of time behind bars when he is sentenced in May, projecting a positive attitude is what helps him get by each day.

"For the first few months I felt very helpless," Epple recalls. "I felt that there was no hope for a normal life. How was I going to continue on knowing that I was involved in such a horrible thing?"

Surprisingly to Epple and his family, it was the support that came from community members and former professors who sent letters of encouragement that gave Epple the motivation to continue his good works.

"(The support) gave me the motivation to say 'I'm a man and what's happened has happened,'" said Epple. "I can't change the past but I can change the future."

In hopes of preventing future accidents like the one Epple was involved in, he hopes to speak to high school students in the community and share his story.

"This isn't about me," said Epple. "It's about the community. The most positive thing I can do in my life is to accept what has happened and just try to be the best person I can be."

Going one step further, Epple attended and was certified in the T.I.P.s (Training Intervention Procedures) seminar that resident assistants at IPFW are required to go to. IPFW police office Jeffery Davis instructed Epple.

"I just want to make sure that nobody else is in the same position that I am," said Epple. "Something's going to come up sometime in my future and I've learned those skills then maybe I'll be trained better to intervene."

His thoughts, consumed by the past, help Epple utilize his time in the present to better the future.

"There's nothing good that will come from having an apathetic attitude towards anything," said Epple.

On any given Monday or Friday afternoon one can find Epple at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission helping in the kitchen. He also is currently talking to the coordinator of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) in hopes that his story can help their message.

"Life is a process and in this process I would like to improve or prevent from this ever happening again," said Epple as the tears returned. "I would never in my life want anyone to have to feel what I feel on a daily basis."

With his cup of black coffee and a copy of Ernest Hemmingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," Epple takes a break each morning from reality with a dose of some light reading.

"Nobody wakes up in the morning and thinks, 'Hey, something is going to happen today,'" said Epple. "Nobody even really thinks about that. And when it does happen, your whole life changes and you have a real soul awakening."

Safe inside his IPSGA hoodie, Epple shrinks into his chair and rocks back and forth as if relaxing the night all over again. Every insult from peers, the harsh letters published in the local papers or the words coming straight from those who loved professor Manzer as they call for Epple to step down from his elected position as the Vice President of Programming for the '06-'07 school year, rush ashore to wage a battle with Epple's thoughts. Swallowing it all, he opens his eyes once again.

"There's a line in there," said Epple, referring to Hemmingway's "The Old Man and the Sea." "(It) says, 'a man can be destroyed but not defeated.' And it's true. You can rip everything from me for what has happened but as long as I still have motivation I can make a difference."

Photo by Eugene Harding/ news@ipfwcommunicator.org

▶ ELECTIONS
*From Page A1*

talk about Danny Epple's past, and in fact Danny openly addressed several students' concerns on the issue of his running," said Shay Stroik, incumbent president of student government. "I have never seen him opposed to talking about what happened last year."

In Article IV, Section II of the IPSGA Constitution it states there is to be "no campaigning within 15 feet of where the ballots are being cast." The implementation of online voting and availability of wireless Internet on campus created a dilemma as to where campaign posters could be placed, as well as whether or not candidates could speak about their opponents at IPFW.

> "I personally know all of the candidates that ran for office this year and I would like to believe that they would not use it to their advantage," said Stroik. "If you cannot win on your own merits then are you really satisfied with your win?"

An e-mail from the Election Board, regarding designated campaign sites, was sent out to all candidates running for an office. Included in it was a warning saying, "The Election Board members want you to be aware that they will have monitors walking around during campaign times, checking to make sure these regulations are followed."

Joe Kiszka, acting as a monitor, removed posters from the campus that were placed there by people in the Nick Adams campaign. A confrontation between Adams and Kiszka occurred in the Senate room at the IPSGA office on March 31 over the Election Board's removal of the posters.

Kiszka accused Adams of shoving him, while Adams laid claim that Kiszka knocked him into the Senate table. After a police officer was called to the scene and a report given, no charges were filed by either of the parties.

"I personally know all of the candidates that ran for office this year and I would like to believe that they would not use it to their advantage," said Stroik. "If you cannot win on your own merits then are you really satisfied with your win?"

Not only was the campaigning portion of the elections raising eyebrows, but the accessibility of the means of voting was also an issue. Regarding this year's implementation of online voting, Aaron Williamson, candidate and next year's vice president of finance said, "The link to vote was very difficult to see - very discrete."

Using application software, which has been utilized this past year by faculty to do surveys for students, the voting system was set up by IT Services.

Bob Kostrubanic, Director of IT Services, said there were many factors that played into the problems with the system, including portal problems and issues regarding Daylight Saving Time. "It has been awhile since we have seen so many things go wrong on a particular service," he said, and added that miscommunication between those involved played a large part in the mishaps.

This year there were only 336 people who voted out of a student population of around 12,000. Compared to the over 1,300 people that voted last year, the turnout was dismal.

Some attribute the lack of representation of the student body to the change from paper ballots to online voting, while others say it has to do with the students themselves.

"The only excuse that people could have used for not voting was ignorance or apathy," Kiszka said.

Adams, upon commenting on whether or not the student body was represented with the votes said, "As far as numbers? No. As far as who won? Maybe. Maybe not. There is no way to find out."

As far as addressing the issues in this election dealing with freedom of speech, campaigning and voting, Adams and Williamson have ideas for change.

"We were encouraged that negative campaigning was not accepted on this campus," said Stroik. "I saw this as a way to protect students from other students. No good can come from negative campaigning because then the race goes from 'Here's why you should vote for me' to 'Here's why you shouldn't vote for my opponent' and I think that it is an unattractive element to politics."

Williamson proposes using paper ballots as well as electronic voting. He also accentuates the importance of students being aware of the elections and posits the use of mass e-mails as well as advertising through student organizations would increase participation.

Adams agrees with the idea to institute the use of paper ballots and electronic ballots simultaneously, and adds that more restrictions need to be placed on the Election Board.

"I think through the experience from these elections everyone sees faults. There will be improvements," he said.

Corinne Swanson, candidate for vice president of programming and current Student Body President Lamar Dixon failed to reply for comment.

IT Services is currently in the process of analyzing the problems that occurred.

"I understand that the vote was no where near the vote that was expected and that concerns us, of course," Kostrubanic.

▶ SPRING FLING
*From Page A1*

student body, who then give the tickets to the Red Cross when they donate blood. The group with the most tickets wins a $150 donation, with second and third getting $100 and $50.

That night, the Senior Stampede will be from 7 to 9 in the Walb Ballroom, and is open to all students regardless of class standing. The Senior Stampede is an entertaining event with free food sponsored by the Alumni Association to show love for all current and future IPFW Alum.

The biggest events of the Spring Fling are the "Last Bash BBQ" on Thursday and the all-day events for Saturday. On Thursday, the BBQ will feature free food provided by the IPSGA as a thank you and send off to the 2005-06 school year.

The BBQ will also feature many exciting up-and-coming local bands, and lasts from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., when the food is finished being served. The BBQ kicks things off at 9 a.m. with Yewande, who was here in October, and includes Nurse, Left Lane Cruiser, Defiantly Gary, Unlikely Alibi, Roleo and EDS. Sam Cofa and the comedian Al Goodwin.

The Canton Renaissance Club will also be doing historical recreations during the BBQ.

On Saturday, the Spring Fling ends with a bang. The SAB is featuring the Kid's Carnival that will include the Human Services Duck Pond, the exciting Geoscience Club "Paint your Pet Rock" and other fun events. The carnival will delight with "zoot-suit entertainer" Dave Evans as he performs magic and balloon fun for the kids. A giant moonwalk and inflated slide will be along side crafts and the 3 Rivers Dance Collective Janbé Ensemble. The Janbé Ensemble is a group of seven to 17-year-old musicians who play traditional Malinké music, which is drum music from the Western Africa areas of Guinea and Mali.

Saturday is also a day for students to attend a free Fort Wayne Freedom game at the Coliseum and is the first round of the MIVA Men's Volleyball Tournament, in which the second seed IPFW Mastodons play Carthage. Tickets for the Freedom game can be picked up all week at the IPSGA office, but there are only 700, so get yours early. SAB and ISPGA will also be giving away Freedom tickets at the carnival on Saturday.

Shay Stroik, the new IPSGA Student Body President, stated that Freedom tickets are always buy one, get one free for IPFW students.

The final event for Spring Fling is IPSGA's Inaugural Ball, a formal dance event that includes many other universities in the Fort Wayne area, such as the University of Saint Francis.

This event is $20 for a couple, or $15 for those going stag to the Ball at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

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# Podium

Opinions • Editorials • Letters



## America in need of a national language

**Staff Column**
By Amie Sarka
asarka@pfwcommunicator.org

Something we need in this nation is a national language. For 200 years we have assumed that the national language is English.

I would say English is the most common language of the United States. So, why wouldn't English be the national language? It makes sense to me.

I think that one of the reasons we need a national language is because we have so much diversity. We have so many languages already that we need some way to communicate more effectively.

I know more than 90 percent of people in the United States already speak English. But then there is that other small percent who does not speak English. I think that if we made a national language, than that small percent of people would, hopefully, learn English.

But should we have only one national language or should we have two? Should English and Spanish be the two national languages since many people speak those two languages? These are the two most common languages in America.

Yes, there are nations that have more then one national language. Take, for example, Belgium and India. Belgium has three national languages. So the children learn the three national languages as well as English.

For example, India has 18 official languages. Now I would imagine that situation would lead to a chaotic mess. I think that there would be many problems with the government trying to direct the nation's business.

I think if the United States had more then one national language it could lead to a mess. If there were two national languages then our government might not be able to run the country as effectively than if there was only one national language.

It might work, though, with having two national languages. India has 18 and that might be a reason why they are having some problems in the nation. I think that we might have a problem more with people complaining.

If we name Spanish as one of the national languages, we would have to name other languages as a national language as well. We are a diverse nation, with many different kinds of languages. There will be people asking, "What about German? What about Polish? What about French?"

I think the easiest thing for us to do is to name English, and only English, the national language. Most people who come to America already know English. Then there are those who don't learn English.

I think that if someone comes to live in the United States then he or she should learn the common language spoken in the nation.

If I were to go live in Puerto Rico or Spain I should at least already know how to speak the language or be willing to learn the national language.

This way I will be able to speak with the natives there - in their native language.

Someone in one of my classes mentioned that there are immigrants who are able to get around the system by just memorizing the answers for the test they have to take. I think if they do that then they are just hurting themselves.

I say they are hurting themselves because they are not giving themselves the opportunity to try to learn English.

The way that looks to me is that we should accommodate for them not being able to speak the language.

Now, I'm not against immigrants or anything, but I don't see how they are making their lives easier by not learning the common language of the United States. I understand that many come over to escape persecutions or just to get a better lifestyle.

I don't want to sound like a broken record but there's that language barrier between the natives and the immigrants who come over. And this presents us with a problem that we need to figure out how to fix. One simple solution is to make English the native language.

## Another's misery a source of comedy in life and movies

**Screaming from the Left**
By Andrew C. Hoover
ahoover@pfwcommunicator.org

On Thursday, some young rapscallions, including myself, went to Taco Bell for this so called "Fourth Meal" which is in and of itself another column ... but anyway, we were at Taco Bell at 1 a.m. or so, getting ready to drive home, when we saw a motorcycle on the wrong side of the road with no headlights moving in sluggish figure-eights.

By the time we pulled into a parking lot on the corner of Lima and something, by the Meijer, a young female officer had pulled over the obviously drunk motorcyclist and was apprehending him.

The very attractive female officer had the 300-pound (at least) hairy motorcyclist on the ground. We rolled down the window, sipped our sodas, and watched.

The motorcyclist was down on the ground crying hard, wiping his eyes and basically refusing to cooperate with the cop.

She had his arm twisted and was trying to get him to lie down on his stomach but he just sobbed and sobbed until she finally threatened, loudly, to break his arm.

Our howls of laughter were getting louder, so we rolled up the windows for fear of insulting the good officer doing her job.

A more active citizen helped her get him to the ground.

By this time, more cops arrived ... including another incredibly hot female cop, and was taking the man into the car.

He was crying and sobbing and unable to walk straight at all and when the police tried to put him in the cruiser, he would not bend over and just kinda crashed into the side of the vehicle; all the while his very expensive Harley sat on the road. Our laughter muffled in the car.

It was a few moments after this that I realized how strange that whole moment was. We, able-bodied young men, watched that officer make an arrest.

Laughing, sipping sodas and watching with wide eyes and scorn ... we did nothing to help.

This was entertainment for us. Watching this man's life basically be ruined by his own sheer stupidity was entertainment.

How very Roman.

Other than the realization that Fort Wayne employs some attractive young officers, and that if we commit a crime to do it at night to meet one, what did we take away from this moment? Probably nothing.

It was entertainment on par with anything I would watch on MTV or CBS. Is there something wrong with this?

I don't think so.

I even took more enjoyment from this other man's misery, probably growing even now, by telling you of the story. It made me laugh; hopefully you might chuckle.

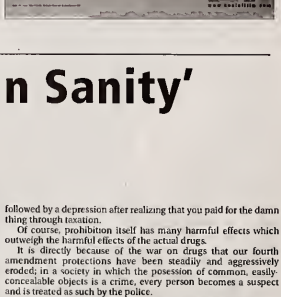
I assure you, it was a funny scene.

No one got hurt, thankfully, so was anything wrong about watching this drunken moron suffer?

The increase in movies of torture and abuse as a form of entertainment, namely in such films as "Hostel," "Wolf Creek" and now "Hard Candy" (in which a teenage girl tortures a man's penis with a scalpel) we have to ask ourselves if misery and pain should be entertainment.

Is watching this drunk get arrested and knowing how screwed he is any different than simulated violence? Well, yeah.

However, while the details and gross-level are very different ... one was real misery and suffering and the other is fake ... I have to question if there really is a difference when you consider that.




## 'War on Drugs'? Try 'War on Sanity'

**I Have A Beard**
By Chris Wetzel
news@pfwcommunicator.org

**"Most marijuana smokers are Negroes, Hispanics, jazz musicians and entertainers. Their satanic music is driven by marijuana, and marijuana smoking by white women makes them want to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and others."**

That quote is from a man named Harry J. Anslinger, who you've probably never heard of. Mr. Anslinger, who died in 1975, comes off as some kind of hysterical Bircher today he freely linked the dread drug marihuana to communism, racial miscegenation, and a host of other fanciful bogeymen.

The funny thing is, this raving lunatic has had more influence on this nation's drug policy than any other single person.

Anslinger became Assistant Commissioner of Prohibition in 1929. He served in that post only until 1930, when extensive corruption and scandal in the Bureau of Prohibition forced a widespread reorganization.

Harry J. Anslinger, who had never completed high school, was rescued from the shake-up by his father-in-law (Andrew Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury), who appointed him as head of the newly-created Federal Bureau of Narcotics.

Anslinger went on to hold this post for 32 years, until his racist rhetoric and aggressive attempts to surpress academic writings at Indiana University became embarrassing to his superiors.

In that time, though, he created our modern prohibition through a campaign of sensationalism, deception, and sidestepping the constitution.

A lot has been clipped out of this history lesson; a full account of the racism, xenophobia, and disguised moral zealotry that have created the war on drugs would fill a book.

Indeed, a cogent argument for ending prohibition would fill at the very least several pages; but space is limited, and I'll do what I can.

What the situation comes down to, in the end, is that the war on drugs is an expensive, destructive, and unsuccessful effort to do away wah something that isn't even a problem.

Schedule I is the group of substances which it is illegal to posess in any quantity for any reason – a bunch of lawyers and cops have declared the contents of that list to have no redeeming value whatever, and conveniently make it extremely difficult for scientists to conduct research which might contradict them. It is also, interestingly enough, home to several substances which are far less toxic than aspirin or Tylenol.

Cannabis, probably the most harmless intoxicant in the world, has never killed anybody; its toxicity is so low that it is actually impossible to overdose while smoking pot.

It has similarly never been shown to cause brain damage, dementia, homicidal rage, or any of the other ridiculous evils that have been laid at its feet.

It was banned in 1937 in reaction to the sentiment found in the quote at the top of the column.

LSD, a drug which is similarly non-toxic and showed much research potential, was banned in 1967 after becoming associated with the anti-war movement.

MDMA ("Ecstasy"), is my favorite example. Starting in the mid-1970s psychotherapists experimented with the drug and found it to have enormous therapeutic potential.

The drug drew little public notice until its recreational use became popular in clubs in the early 1980s; it was banned in short order by the DEA via emergency scheduling in 1985.

However, at that time there was no evidence of any kind that MDMA is harmful.

The first such study was not conducted until several years later; that study was subsequently debunked, and to this day no substantial harmful effects have been demonstrated.

In other words, MDMA was banned because, and only because, people were taking it recreationally.

I see this as an indication of what the war on drugs is really all about: it has nothing to do with actual medical danger, and everything to do with people having fun in ways that make authority figures uncomfortable.

Alcohol, in contrast to the above examples, kills people every day and is perfectly legal.

Many, many people have smoked pot over the years and so are familiar with what a big deal it isn't.

One would think that this would make painting pot as Devil Weed a fairly tough sell, and that does appear to be borne out by the increasingly ridiculous nature of government propaganda on the topic.

If you haven't been paying attention to the commercials where the stoners are shooting each other for no reason, maybe you should have a look over at freevibe.com for a nice, hearty laugh followed by a depression after realizing that you paid for the damn thing through taxation.

Of course, prohibition itself has many harmful effects which outweigh the harmful effects of the actual drugs.

It is directly because of the war on drugs that our fourth amendment protections have been steadily and aggressively eroded; in a society in which the posession of common, easily-concealable objects is a crime, every person becomes a suspect and is treated as such by the police.

Our prison population, which has been rising at an alarming rate for some time now, is disturbingly full of non-violent drug offenders serving ridiculously long mandatory minimum sentences.

We spend $20 billion a year on the ONOCP alone.

That doesn't include money spent at the state and local level, not to mention maintaining inflated prison populations and the ruination of countless lives.

Thanks in large part to our own Mark Souder, people who have had previous trouble with drugs are now systematically denied higher education. And for what? To combat a phenomenon which frankly wouldn't be much of a problem if we only dealt with it sensibly.

Would the junkie stealing car stereos to pay for a fix still need to do that if prohibition weren't driving up the price? Would the kid collapsing at a party still be in trouble if there were quality standards in place to ensure that what he swallowed was actually MOMA and not an amphetamine? Would dealers still sell to kids if they could lose their license for doing so?

You can't ban an activity that so many people enjoy and don't perceive as harmful; it just doesn't work.

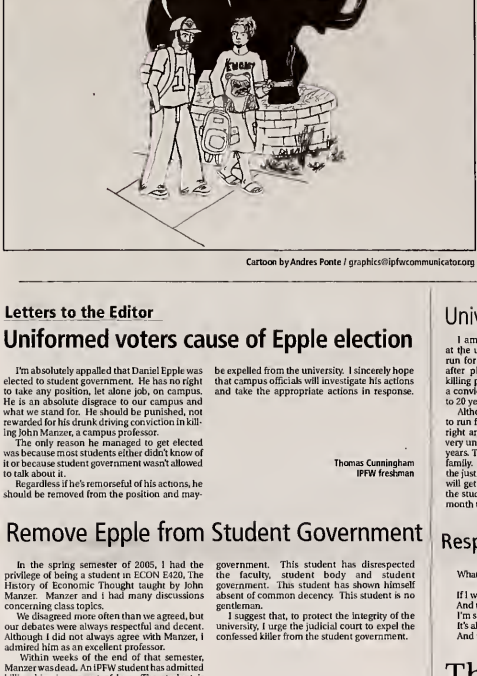
We've spent buckets of money and man-hours combatting recreational drug use, and failed. Our efforts haven't even made a dent.

Instead we've created a thriving black market with all the gang violence and other problems that are always associated with black markets. Exactly the same thing happened when we banned alcohol back in the 20's, but at some point we became incapable of admitting that we've made a mistake.

It's tempting to say that our drug policy has been like Don Quixote tilting at windmills, but in fact it has more in common with a man banging his face into a brick wall.

The central fact of the matter is that prohibition has made the drug problem worse, not better, and that people getting high now and again just isn't the end of the world.

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free excercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peacably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances.**




Cartoon by Andres Ponte / graphics@ipfwcommunicator.org

# Let he without sin ...

## Staff Editorial

Last August, an IPFW student left a restaurant after drinking and decided to drive home. He made it safely home. Unfortunately another IPFW student made the same shameful choice but with a much different outcome. On August 8 Danny Epple, then an active member in student government and an honor student drove drunk and crashed into IPFW professor John Manzer's corvette, killing him.

Epple has been charged and will be sentenced in May for his crime. Since the accident occurred, Epple has continued his work in the student government and his classes. No letters to the editor calling for his removal from the senate. No letters demanding he be expelled from IPFW.

Candidates running for his elected position were not forbidden to speak of Epple's past - they chose not to, which speaks highly of their character. Some complaining about Epple and the election have mentioned in the news sources that they knew nothing of Epple's past.

Those students, perhaps, have not paid attention to the media and their extensive coverage since last August.

What Danny Epple did that night in August was stupid and led to a tragedy he and his family, along with all of those who loved professor Manzer, will deal with for the rest of their lives. But does the accident that Epple caused make him any less of a person, an IPFW student as those who drink and drive but just have yet to cause an accident like the one that occurred last August?

Epple is no different than those of you on campus who may not even have a DUI on your record but who left the bar one night and just happened to make it home safely.

Or, perhaps, he is different? He volunteers, he's an honor student and he's trying to use the biggest mistake of his life to educated the public and reduce the number of drunk drivers on the road by talking to high school students and sharing his story.

If you were among the 336 students who voted, by all means, state your frustrations. For the other 11,000 plus of you - vote next year and make a difference.

### Letters to the Editor

# Uniformed voters cause of Epple election

I'm absolutely appalled that Daniel Epple was elected to student government. He has no right to take any position, let alone job, on campus. He is an absolute disgrace to our campus and what we stand for. He should be punished, not rewarded for his drunk driving conviction in killing John Manzer, a campus professor.

The only reason he managed to get elected was because most students either didn't know of it or because student government wasn't allowed to talk about it.

Regardless if he's remorseful of his actions, he should be removed from the position and may-be expelled from the university. I sincerely hope that campus officials will investigate his actions and take the appropriate actions in response.

**Thomas Cunningham**
**IPFW freshman**

# Remove Epple from Student Government

In the spring semester of 2005, I had the privilege of being a student in ECON E420, The History of Economic Thought taught by John Manzer. Manzer and I had many discussions concerning class topics.

We disagreed more often than we agreed, but our debates were always respectful and decent. Although I did not always agree with Manzer, I admired him as an excellent professor.

Within weeks of the end of that semester, Manzer was dead. An IPFW student has admitted killing him in a court of law. The student is awaiting sentencing.

This student has recently been stealthily elected to a position within the student government. This student has disrespected the faculty, student body and student government. This student has shown himself absent of common decency. This student is no gentleman.

I suggest that, to protect the integrity of the university, I urge the judicial court to expel the confessed killer from the student government.

**Hugh Johnson**
**Senior**

# References to Foster offensive, misleading

I recently picked up a copy of the IPFW Communicator, Wednesday, April 5, 2006, and was extremely surprised when I read your article about Foster for Sheriff.

The Allen County sheriff race has been the most widely covered issue thus far with the local media.

In the article, it is claimed that you have no idea who Foster is.

If you were any type of a concerned citizen who takes his politics seriously (let alone a decent reporter), you would have read about him in both local newspapers and seen coverage on the local news networks.

Furthermore, I believe you have an obligation as a writer or reporter to provide facts and inform your readers. You may be aware that what is written in an article may be the only thing a person who reads your article will remember.

"A card carrying member of NAMBLA, or a Klansman, a strong believer in zero-tolerance drug law enforcement and a serial rapist" are links you intimated with Foster. I find all of these descriptions to be offensive and extremely misleading to the uninformed reader. I can assure you that Foster is in no way associated with any of these.

Another item you mentioned was that you had no idea of Foster's gender or party affiliations. Both the NAMBLA and Klansman make reference to men.

You made no reference to the female gender. You apparently drew some conclusion even as an uninformed citizen. In addition, had you simply looked at the picture you published with your article you would have seen the word "Republican" on the sign.

You did make a good point, however, that people need to educate themselves on the issues and candidates.

It could have been such a better article. The signs are there to remind people who is running for an office and it should lead some to investigate more.

Defaming, misleading or labeling a person in the press by an uniformed reporter is totally unprofessional. As for your "experience with local elections" you imply that you are informed and knowledgeable (misleading to your readers). You must have a very narrow focus not to have heard of Foster. What is it that you are learning at IPFW? It doesn't seem to be responsible reporting.

With all that said, I believe you owe Mike Foster an apology for labeling him with such offensive relationships.

**Pat Hayes**

Disclaimer: The Podium page is strictly reserved for opinion articles. Articles do not reflect the opinion of the staff as a whole.

**REMINDER**

All Letters to the Editor must be signed!
Please limit letters to 700 words or less.

If you feel you need additional space please inquire about writing a Guest Column or one for the fall semester.

# University represented by Student Government

I am writing to express my utter disbelief at the university in allowing Danny Epple to run for an office in the student government after pleading guilty to drunk driving and killing professor Manzer, thereby making him a convicted felon, awaiting sentencing for up to 20 years in prison.

Although Danny Epple had every legal right to run for office, he obviously has no sense of right and wrong by running for office at the very university that Manzer served for over 20 years. This is a slap in the face to the Manzer family. Danny Epple has thumbed his nose at the justice system as he obviously feels that he will get out of his sentence as his position in the student government is to start in May, the month that he is to be sentenced.

What kind of university is this to have a convicted felon as a representative of the students?

What kind of students are being educated to vote for such a person, who has no sense of integrity or decency?

This is an outrage and the student government and the university should be ashamed and embarrassed that such a thing has happened - that a convicted felon is now representing the university.

**Jennie Sisolak**

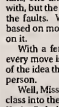
# Response to Post-abortion Syndrome debate

What's It to Me?

If I were unborn and at rest,
And they told my mom there'd be stress,
I'm sure you'll agree,
It's all pre to me,
And the post is a theory at best!

**Tom Kruse**
**Senior Programmer/Analyst**
**IT Services**

# The costly price of being famous and wealthy



## Pasquali's Ponderings

**By Angie Pasquali**
apasquali@ipfwcommunicator.org

With the loss of privacy and crazed, stalker fans, one understands what they have to deal with, but the money seems to always overpower the faults. Why would it not? Our society is based on money; your social standing depends on it.

With a female star like Britney Spears, her every move is followed and fans refuse to let go of the idea that she is some almighty, awesome person.

Well, Miss Spears is bumping the white trash class into the public eye ever since she married Kevin Federline, or as his homies know him, K-Fed.

All I know is that if I brought this guy home to my parents, they would laugh and say good day to him. This guy is pretty lame, folks.

Britney probably should have thought about this decision before actually going through with it, but she is not so bright either; that is why she is a pop star. K-Fed's job history consists of pizza delivery guy and back-up dancer.

Sweet, he is going nowhere in life, and probably does not have a brain inside that ugly head of his.

Oh no, I forgot to mention that K-Fed is supposedly a rapper as well. I say supposedly because his first song that leaked onto the Internet was the biggest load of garbage I have ever heard.

> But I know that you really can't wait 'cause people are always askin' me / when's the release date? / Well maybe baby you can wait and see. / Until then, all these Pavarottis following me.

The first song was called "Y'all ain't ready." Despite the beautiful grammar in the title, the songs blows, big time. I truly recommend listening to it, because it will give you a good laugh.

Just to give you a little taste, the opening verse consists of "But I know that you really can't wait 'cause people are always askin' me / when's the release date? / Well maybe baby you can wait and see. / Until then, all these Pavarottis following me."

Apparently he has the Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti following him around - what an idiot.

You now have a slight idea at what a complete waste of space and time this guy is. K-Fed and Britney recently had a child as well (yeah, that statement I made in a previous column about stupid people not breeding, that applies here).

On April 1, their baby boy reportedly fell from his high chair and bruised his head. Supposedly, he slipped from the arms of the nanny after something on the high chair snapped.

This poor kid is already going to be struggling for brain cells thanks to his dad, but now that the kid is falling on his head, he has no hope of graduating high school. Lucky for the parents, there appears to be no immediate damage, and no charges are being filed.

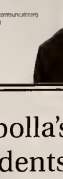
Despite the fall appearing to be an accident, this is not the first time DCFS has been called to Spears' home. In February, Britney was seen driving with her then four-month-old boy sitting in her lap. Does anyone else feel bad for this kid? I think he would have a better chance growing up in a cave with bears than these two inbred dummies.

With all the attention that celebrities receive, their smallest mistakes are brought to the spotlight for everyone else to see. It is not hard to look at K-Fed and Spears and wonder what gutter they came out of, not having a full brain between the two of them.

I am not just aiming to bash on your boy K-Fed here, I dislike Britney just as much, but it is too easy to make fun of her.

The unfortunate part of this whole thing is they have a child that will be brought up with all the money and bad rap albums in the world, and never have to worry about a thing in his life, except which wife beater to wear to the store that day.

The kid does not even have a chance at using any of the brain cells that he has left.



■ DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL
Band will perform next Monday at the Memorial Coliseum. Tickets are still on sale APRIL 24

THE COMMUNICATOR
A&E
Arts & Entertainment

■ LUCKY 7
The Arts & Entertainment feature returns to take a look at "Story Theatre" PAGE A8

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
24 PAGES, ISSUE XXVII

# Cebolla's offers students tasty food, unique atmosphere

## Restaurant Review

By Megan Yoder
myoder@ipfwcommunicator.org

Upon first sight, the original Cebolla's Mexican Grill on Fernhill Avenue might surprise you. Not all restaurants have little tin Mexican band members greeting them from the front lawn.

The building itself appears much older than it actually is, with peach paint peeling from its wooden frame. A side porch lined with teal trim walks visitors from the back lot to the front entrance.

Upon entering the restaurant, a wave of color hits you. Tropical backboards with "Cebolla's Mexican Grill" decorate booths while bright decorations and lights stand out against a black ceiling. Spanish music plays constantly in the background.

Service was very swift at both of my visits. Within a minute of being seated, a basket of warm fried chips, lightly salted, accompanied by a spicy salsa were on the table. Personally, I enjoy the chips, which are made on site, as well as the salsa, which consists of a tomato paste and cilantro. Not too mild, its flavor has a bold taste without being overwhelming.

The restaurant is unique in what it offers, pleasing both those who are looking for authentic as well as tex-mex.

The menu offers generous portions, especially in its appetizers. Two kinds of nachos are offered on the appetizer menu. The traditional nachos de la casa, or house nachos, offers all the beans, cheese, lettuce, tomato and sour cream that one would expect from nachos, as well as your choice of beef or chicken.

The nachos fajitas are unique. Your choice of steak or chicken is added to the fried chips, drizzled in a creamy queso dip and topped with grilled green peppers, onions and tomatoes. Topped with a cool guacamole made fresh, its texture and taste pleases the fajita lover in a nacho style perfect for sharing.

From the main entrees, I chose the quesadilla de la casa, or house quesadilla. A rolled tortilla cut into four pieces is filled with a creamy white cheese and stuffed with steak or chicken, diced tomatoes, onions and green peppers. Upon first bite, the greasy yet delicious taste of the meat and cheese along with the vegetables made me order it twice. Garnished with sour cream and guacamole, the basket of chips on your table continues to service itself and is refilled as needed. After the chips and nachos, the big portions of the quesadilla demand a doggy bag.

For dessert, I tried a traditional Mexican treat, flan.

Its texture is a mix between a pudding and a jelly, and is glazed with a rich caramel topping. Easy on the cinnamon, its creamy and light texture cools the palate.

In addition to the wonderful food, Cebolla's Mexican Grill offered us exemplary service. Never was my drink below half full and a friendly staff brought out the food within 10 minutes of our order.

The dinner hour is a little busier than lunchtime and the lunch specials are considerably cheaper than the main menu.

Fast service, great authentic Mexican food and now three locations in Fort Wayne, Cebolla's Mexican Grill is quickly becoming a Fort Wayne favorite. I must admit I have become a regular patron.

# Making a mark ...

Photos by Joel Faurote / arts@ipfwcommunicator.org

## Concert Review

By Joel Faurote
arts@ipfwcommunicator.org

Over a decade has passed since singer-songwriter/piano rock aficionado Ben Folds began to garner a national reputation for fronting a "guitarless" band. The piano, bass and drum combination has been the basis of his music ever since. In the history books, he is all but written off as a one-hit wonder for his 1997 hit "Brick." The crowds at his consistently sold-out shows, however, may see him in a different light. His show at Emens Auditorium at Ball State University on April 12 was no exception. After the opener, Chicago-native Chris Mills finished his set and the crowd waited intently for the house lights to dim again. Soon thereafter, Folds and his band took the stage and broke right into a brisk rendition of "Theme from Dr. Pyser" and kept the attention of the fans for the rest of the night. With the crowd singing along word-for-word, he worked through a set of both old and new material, some of which was written when he was only 20 years old. Between songs, he humorously let everyone in on his latest experiment, which plays on the idea that people believe anything they read on the Internet. He gave the crowd a taste of rumors that he had fabricated previously which people actually believed, with topics including but not limited to levitation, lip-syncing, drug abuse, prostitution and Bill Clinton. He later discussed how the face of the music industry, in his mind, is hopeless. Then he immediately began playing his own foul-jerking version of Dr. Ore and Snoop Oogg's song "Bitches Ain't Shit." After having the audience sing along about the despairs of living in the hood, Folds played a solo set

▶ FOLDS: Page A7

# Sequel on 'Ice' shines, helps understanding

## Movie Review

By Brianna Belford
bbelford@ipfwcommunicator.org

I laughed, I cried and then I went home and thanked God for giving the guidance to understand who I am and where I belong. Yes, an animated film full of talking animals, which for the most part are now extinct, could have such an impact on me. Either I'm a bit confused with Daylight Saving Time still, or "Ice Age II: The Meltdown" did its job of making one think about the future, who they have, but most importantly who they are inside.

The movie starts with the original gang Manny the mammoth (Ray Ramono), Diego the saber-toothed tiger (Denis Leary), and Sid the sloth (John Leguizamo). A plethora of animals are engaging in some modern-day water park fun when a doomsday prophet of a vulture tells the animals that there will soon be a great flood and all will die unless they can make it to the boat (a piece of bark big enough for a few hundred animals) which is a three day walk away.

While the herd of Ice Age animals are making their journey, Manny, Sid and Diego all go through a bit of an identity crisis. Manny believes that he's the last mammoth alive and with Sid singing songs to pass the time like "If you're going extinct and you know it ..." the troubled Manny cannot focus on much else. That is, until his self-pity party is literally crashed by Elke (Queen Latifa), a mammoth who believes herself to be an opossum. She sleeps on her head with her tail wrapped around branches and plays dead. This cute behavior offers Manny a glimpse into the real Ellie and he begins to fall for her. Although she doesn't quite realize that she's a mammoth until she's forced to face the past in an emotional trip down memory lane (yes, this is where I cried like a little baby) her opossum habits remain with her throughout the movie. She becomes the traveling companion of Manny, Sid and Diego along with her two brothers Crash and Eddie (who really are opossums). While Manny is trying to woo Ellie, Sid is trying to earn the respect of Diego. He attempts to show the hydrophobic saber-tooth that the water can be defeated and that most animals can swim as babies.

"Ice Age II" has beautiful scenery, transitions with Scrat, the

**The BREAKDOWN**

"Ice Age: The Meltdown"
Starring: John Leguizamo, Ray Romano, Denis Leary
Directed by: Carlos Saldanha
Rated: PG
Run Time: 91 minutes

★★★★

*Film is ranked on 5-star scale

▶ ICE AGE: Page A7

"Proof, a member of the Eminem-fronted Detroit-based hip-hop sextet D12, was killed early Tuesday morning outside a Detroit nightclub in a shooting that left another man in critical condition."

## adVANCEd Notice

By Dan Vance
dvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

You never forget the first words you read or hear when someone you know passes away. Likewise, you will never forget when someone you feel the smallest of bonds with does either.

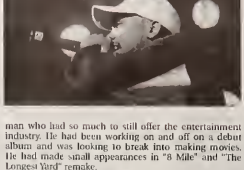
Me, I will never forget the moment I read of the death of DeShaun Holton, better known to the world as D12 rapper Proof. It's not like I knew Proof or anything like that, but I did know his music. Even more, I was a fan of it.

Violence that has been matched with the hip hop culture over the past 10 or so years is a pretty sad thing. From the much talked about shooting deaths of Tupac Shakur and the Notorious B.I.G. to the untimely death in 2002 of rap legend Jason "JamMaster Jay" Mizell, it is a trend that tells bad things of the future.

That is one reason why the death of Proof is unfortunate.

Another is the youth of the young man that most only know as Eminem's protégé. At only 32, Proof was taken from this world in what became an ironic reality less than a year after Eminem's video "Like Toy Soldiers" depicted Proof being shot and killed in a drive-by.

Dying young is always tragic, especially with a young



man who had so much to still offer the entertainment industry. He had been working on and off on a debut album and was looking to break into making movies. He had made small appearances in "8 Mile" and "The Longest Yard" remake.

And judging by the comedic behavior of Proof and his antics with D12, I honestly think that he would have made a great comedic role player.

For the remaining five members of D12, this has to be some of the hardest times that they have seen. The beginning of the group was also marred by tragedy when original member Bugz (stage name) was killed by gunfire.

I feel bad for them.

▶ PROOF: Page A7

# There is one who is worst than the rest

## Commentary

By Tiffany Dirig
tdirig@ipfwcommunicator.org

I've decided to do a little something different. You know, switch it up a bit. The semester's winding down (quickly!) and I thought to myself, "Why not write about something else?" I'm always talking about movies. True, movies are my life; but I'm a much deeper person than that. I also care about the actors and actresses. In fact - and my friends and family can corroborate this - I make it my business to know their business ... at least the ones I like.

I know that if you've ever read any of my columns, you know that I'm exceptionally snobby. I'm not afraid to admit it. It's a character flaw; one that I am a-OK with. However, I'm a big enough person to say that, even though I may not enjoy watching a person, it doesn't make them a poor performer. That being said, I've decided to write a two-part column about the worst actor and actress in Hollywood.

Why do you care? I'll tell you why. One, these people are making millions upon millions of dollars for sucking at their job. I dunno about you, but if I don't perform well, I get axed. I surely don't get a raise. And I certainly don't make the cover of "US Weekly." Two, reading this will chew up a couple moments of the day. Maybe you need a break from studying, or writing that dissertation. If so, read on. Or don't. Whatever.

Now, on with the show. You should know that there were a few stipulations in order for one to garner the prestigious honor of being the absolute worst. First off, they have to be consistently bad. I'm talking about

▶ KEANU: Page A8

# New 'Ten Commandments' falls short of original epic

### Movie Review

By Tiffany Dirig
tdirig@ipfwcommunicator.org

I had spent the greater part of an evening cleaning my house when, around nine, I decided to do something I hadn't done in weeks: sit down and watch television. I watched a little "American Idol" and cringed as the contestants decimated songs originally released by Queen. After a particularly horrific performance by Katharine McPhee, I decided to switch the channel. And, as I only boast the Fab Five (i.e. the basic channels ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS and FDX), I randomly stopped on ABC. I ended up catching the tail-end of "Hope & Faith" (man, TV sucks these days!) and saw a preview for the conclusion of a two-part mini-series. Thoroughly intrigued, I opted to see how "The Ten Commandments" had evolved in 50 years. Let me tell you, some things just shouldn't be touched, and classic movies are one of them!

Now, I'm not going to lie and tell you that a) I watched the whole thing or b) I know the whole story like the back of my hand (even though I went to Catholic school for over 10 years). I can, however, tell you with absolute certainty that 2006's mini-series version of "The Ten Commandments" was a far cry away from Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 epic.

Right off the bat, I started taking notes. I was primarily concerned with Biblical inaccuracies. Before you start thinking that I'm going to shove the Dld Testament down your throat, hear me out. In two hours, I came up with over 30 questions regarding correctness. (I also had a list of irritations, but I'll get to those later.) Most of the answers I found were in line with what the film illustrated. Some, although, proved to be misrepresentations, at least according to the documents I looked at (I did re-read Exodus, by the way).

As far as the falsifications, I am not too upset. I understand, and respect, artistic freedom. That notwithstanding, when one is retelling a documented occurrence, especially one as well-known as Biblical tales, please don't take too much license; unless one is creating a completely fictional character and inserting him/her into the story.

That being said, I'm going to turn this review to a subject that I do know (sort of): movies. The second half of the series opened with the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. Moses (played by Dougray Scott of "MI:2" fame) is holding his staff in the air and staring down his adopted brother, Menerith (played by Naveen Andrews - yes, that dude from "Lost"). I knew instantly, in the very first nanosecond of this wanna-be movie, that it was going to be bad - real bad. I was right. You want to know how I instinctively knew it was going to be so awful? Two words: English accents! I've never been able to understand why it's acceptable to use an English accent in place of other, more appropriate ones.

> **the BREAKDOWN**
>
> **"The Ten Commandments"**
> Starring: Naveen Andrews, Dougray Scott, Ashley Artus
> Directed by: Robert Dornhelm
> Rated: NR
> Two-Part Mini Series
>
> *
>
> *film is ranked on 5-star scale

Granted, I was not around during Moses' mass exodus from the horrors of Egyptian life. Because of this, perhaps people did speak with an English accent; but, somehow, I find that incredibly unlikely. I also find it hard to believe that people indigenous to Egypt and the surrounding areas had Spanish or American accents. Call me crazy, I know! The only person who sounded like he lived there was Dmar Sharif ... wait, he did live there, so that doesn't count.

Obviously, you can tell how much it irritates me when a cast can't settle on an accent. My theory is this: if you can't all do the same accent; don't do an accent. Df course that'd make me even crazier because some of the cast was from Britain, some were from Scotland, some were from Argentina and still others were from America. So, either way, I guess I'd be annoyed.

DK, so I obviously obsess a little too much, but can you at least understand where I'm coming from? Is continuity too much to ask for in this day and age? Seriously!

Speaking of me being too picky, did anyone else who watched this atrocity notice how cheesy the graphics were? I mean, come on! In the last S0 years, don't you think it would possible to make the parting of the Red Sea look a little more realistic? For goodness sakes, DeMille's team did a much better job; and they had much fewer resources. I actually laughed at the graceful flow of the water "crushing" the Egyptians - who were clearly actors splashing around like idiots in a pool. (Word to the wise for all special effects "gurus:" make the color of the water match!)

Dverall, it was a crappy re-make. True, it was much darker than the original; which made it a hair more interesting to watch.

But with the horrible acting, the amateur graphics and those bloody accents, it was two hours of torture for me. My heart goes out to all of you that had to watch the series in its entirety.

# Visual arts senior creates original cartoon for project

Before graduation, all seniors within the School of Visual and Performing Arts are required to complete a senior project. For theater majors, this may include directing a production. For music majors, a senior recital is expected. For Sean Griffith, a graphic design major in the department of visual communication and design, with a self-described sense of humor and love for cartoons, created an original cartoon for his senior project, complete with merchandise.

The cartoon, entitled "Billy Vector and Tubs," follows the escapades of Billy Vector, a boy, and an overweight squirrel named Tubs. The linchpin of the cartoons is the sense of danger that is embedded in each storyline. This often proves to be the most troublesome aspect.

"I have to think about how to include a sense of danger within the cartoons," Griffith commented. "So that's probably the most trouble I have."

Driginally, Griffith wrote the cartoon for a more mature audience and had to tone it down to a younger level. Through that process, Billy and Tubs became a bit dangerous, as the two characters are usually engaging in activities that they shouldn't be doing. Tub was included in the cartoon at the last minute, to make that story angle possible.

"I added in Tubs to add more humor, but especially satire. That, and teams always work better; just look at Batman and Robin," Griffith said. "I also thought it'd be different to have an overweight squirrel as a character. With cartoons, the characters don't always have to be human. You can have animals as characters, like Porkchop in Doug."

Billy and Tubs began their adventures through hand drawn sketches. From there, Griffith created the cartoon with Macromedia Freehand and vector drawing.

"'Billy Vector' would have been very different had I not used vector drawing," Griffith explained. "A definite plus is being able to resize the image to whatever size I want without distorting it."

The bedroom project has been in the planning stages for over a year, although Griffith plans to only spend two weeks putting the bedroom together. The bedroom will be primarily created by printing, such as t-shirt transfers and print offs that he can apply to items, like lunchboxes.

The final project will be an 8x8 foot scale model of a portion of a boy's bedroom decked out in Billy Vector merchandise. The aim of the project is to market "Billy Vector" by including t-shirts, posters, trading cards, lunch boxes and other merchandise from the cartoon. The focal point of the bedroom will be a mannequin of Billy.

Griffith plans to keep the bedroom after it is done showing for his project at Kachmann Gallery. As for the future of Billy and Tubs, Griffith has no current plants to continue the cartoon.

"I want to get into advertising, maybe do some merchandising. Who knows what will happen to the cartoon in the future," Griffith said.

### ICE AGE
From Page A6

squirrel who never gets his acorn, and jokes that adults can laugh out loud with. Be cautioned that this movie contains a few scary moments with some random monsters, a few bad words in reference to a burro, and for those who always seem to cry at Hallmark commercials, the identity issues will take you back to middle school.

### PROOF
From Page A6

It is difficult to imagine how Proof's friends must feel today, how they have felt for the last week and how they will feel for some time to come.

Those are all of the things I felt last Tuesday as I read about a person I only knew through his lyrics and vocals on a pair of albums and only ever saw through my television screen.

The loss of Proof is sad and that is the bottom line in this horrible situation.

Feel it or not, like his music or not - let us all hope that something is learned from this so we preserve the future for more people like Proof to entertain and really live life the way they deserve to live it.

### FOLDS
From Page A6

consisting of five mellower, more serious songs. It was during this portion of the show that removed any doubt about the relevancy and talent of Ben Folds. When it is just Folds and his piano, it seemed that each individual in the crowd couldn't help but feel like they knew him on a personal level. His bandmates returned for the last half of the show, and together they performed many fan-favorites such as "Army," "Landed" and "Rockin' the Suburbs." Those who have never attended a Ben Folds show are generally astonished when he gives the crowd a brief music lesson and has them sing the three-part harmony which accompanies the song "Not the Same," while he conducts. After leaving the stage, he returned for a two-song encore beginning with "Cooler than You," and ending with the song "Dne Angry Dwarf and 200 Solemn Faces." After his trademark tossing of the stool at the piano, he gave a gracious wave and a bow before exiting the stage, concluding the two hour set. Folds has been touring fairly consistently for the past two and a half years, and is definitely a worthwhile experience if you get the opportunity.

# A&E Briefs

## BFA exhibit scheduled at Kachmann Gallery

The IPFW department of visual communication and design has announced that the Senior BFA Exhibition held each spring has been scheduled at the Kachmann Gallery from April 21 through May 6.

Twenty-two seniors will show their senior projects in this venue. During that same time period, the Visual Arts Gallery at IPFW will display examples of each of their projects that can be seen in their entirety at the Kachmann Gallery at 1301 Lafayette Street.

The opening reception is April 21, 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

For information, call the department of visual communication and design at 481-6709.

## Downtown Artlink featuring new gallery through May

Dn April 14, the Artlink Gallery on East Berry Street in downtown Fort Wayne held the opening reception for their new gallery "Motherlode: Feminine Documentation." The gallery will be open now through May 17. On May 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the gallery, female artists will join the Motherlode Group in a social meeting.

Also currently in the hallway gallery ot Artlink are Lynn Diamente watercolors.

## Motion Picture of the Year to be shown on campus

The Dffice of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs will be showing the Dscar winning film "Crash" on campus this week. The film won the academy award for Motion Picture of the Year last month. The screenings are part of a diversity collaborative presented by the Department of Nursing, the Department of Dental Education, the Dffice of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, IPSGA and the IPFW Diversity Council.

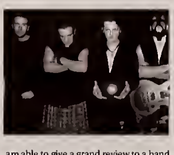
While the first two showings take place before press time, the final showing will take place tomorrow, Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m. in Classroom Medical, Room 159. Immediatly following the screening, there will be a discussion forum moderated by current Student Body President Lamar Dixon.

The screening is free. For more information, contact the Dffice of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at 481-6608.

# Local metal act achieves greatness on live disc

### Movie Review

By Brian Hetrick
bhetrick@ipfwcommunicator.org



Never before have I heard a sound so powerful, yet so elegant and intricate. The songwriting and instrumentation is compelling and dazzling. Local metal band, Soulfyre, has created a masterpiece in the form of a six-track, live album – brilliantly titled "Live."

The songs all have the same masterful qualities and techniques that make a band recognizable to any sane person. "Live" radiantly uses heavy, chugging metal riffs that only exemplify the heartfelt lyrics of loss, death and denial; all of which use extreme profanity in the most perfect way.

Soulfyre is a band in which I can see sticking around in the metal genre for many, many years to come. They are a group of brilliant and creative musicians whose expressions are clear on every level and certainly revolutionary. Watch for this Fort Wayne band to go places, because they have created an album of brilliance that will earn them a spot in metal music history.

•••

Thanks to the beauty of sarcasm, I am able to give a grand review to a band that certainly does not deserve one. The album was horrible and sounds like an act who has listened to entirely way too many Mudvayne albums. The sound is unoriginal, the lyrics sound untrusting and sung for a particular image and the album is absolute trash as a whole.

Call me a bad writer, or just a music snob, but I could not come up with enough good points to inform you of. If I were to list the negative qualities about this recording, I would simply run out of things to say and begin to repeat myself. The result is an article of great recognition, but of complete scorn, disrespect and dishonesty. Hope all enjoyed.

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# LUCKY 7

## Seven things you should know about ...

• "Story Theatre" directed by Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft •

By Dan Vance • Arts & Entertainment Editor • djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

**1.** The stories ... The performances themselves are based on the fairytale works of the Grimm Brothers and Aesop's Fables. "It's how we picture all these childhood stories that we read that had a certain feel or look towards them," said director Jane Purse-Wiedenhoeft. Included in "Story Theatre" will be the classic fairy tales: "The Little Peasant," "The Bremen Town Musicians," "Is He Fat," "The Robber Bridegroom" and "Henny Penny."

**2.** The original angle ... According the Purse-Wiedenhoeft, the play was originally written by Sills as a backhanded protest to the Vietnam War. She also noted that while the IPFW show will not push that aspect and will be geared towards all ages, the older crowds will get some of the undertones involved.

**3.** The creativity ... An ensemble cast of 10 IPFW students will make up all parts in the performance. The 10 also will be doing the sound effect work and often act as their own props. "This is a different sort of comedy," Purse-Wiedenhoeft says. "It is still very theatrical and big and physical in how we are approaching it. But it's not the same style,it's more that we are in our imagination and we are creating something out of nothing."

**4.** The preperation ... Purse-Wiedenhoeft says that the cast spent the first week or so of rehersals doing improvosational theater games to play to the different strengths and talents of the performers. Purse-Wiedenhoeft herself studied with "Story Theatre" playwright Paul Sills (internationally known as the original director of "The Second City") to do some research for the show.

**5.** The cast ... The 10 IPFW students who will make up the cast are Greg Boyles, Kacy Johnson, Gregg Lothamer, Kandi Magner, Meagan McKean, Jim Schneider, Sara Shepherd, Brett Tubbs, Stephanie Vanderwell and Stefan Zubal. Each will play a variety of roles and will even act as live props in many scenes.

**6.** The comedy ... "We are having a playful Spring," explained Purse-Wiedenhoeft. The comedic performance is the second of its genre that the theater department has put on this semester. A month ago, director Larry Life presented "A Comedy of Errors." One of the best things about the comedy, according to the director, is the family-friendly atmosphere.

**7.** The price of admission ... The cost of the show varies. The admission is completly free for all IPFW students with a student I.D. Other admissions are $12 for adults and $10 per person for group tickets. A special sign language-interpreted performance will take place on April 27.

▸ KEANU
*From Page A6*

movie after movie after movie of being unbearable. They can't have just one or two clunkers - and by "clunkers," I mean performances, not movies. Also, all major awards are illegal: and, no, a Razzie doesn't count as a "major award." (A Razzie, by the way, is like an Oscar, but for crap.) Lastly, as previously mentioned above, the decision has to be based solely upon performance, not on my biased, snotty opinion. To ensure that happened, I asked others for their input rather than using my own. Not only did I talk with my closest friends and my family, I bugged complete strangers, too. (Ah, the many "f-yous" I got during my quest.)

The actor race wasn't all that difficult to narrow down, truthfully. I had all sorts of good offers. Arnie came up a few times; so did the Wayans brothers - all 45 of them; yet the person that blew everyone else away by sucking the most often and with the most determination was (drum roll, please) Keanu Reeves. Not a big shocker, I know. But I hadn't really thought about how bad he really is. Then I re-watched some of his movies. Granted "Bill and Ted" are super-cool; we all know, with complete certainty, that it was not because of Reeves.

I have to hand it to the guy. He really commits. I mean, he never shows emotion. Even when he "cries," he's without visible affect. His lines are always, always delivered the same way ... in every single job he does, regardless of whether it's action, drama or comedy. All of this while commanding at least $15 million per movie (please, keep in mind that number does not include the percentage he got off the gross of all three "Matrix" movies – 40 percent total). That's a butt-load of money for doing absolutely nothing and doing it poorly. I am obviously in the wrong line of work. I can't understand it. This dude keeps getting cast in relatively decent movies. I'd like to know what the casting directors are on when Reeves auditions (if he even has to audition at all). Seriously, though, what are they thinking? It's not like he's even that attractive; in fact, I'd rather look at Sam, the now-deceased World's Ugliest Dog, for the rest of my natural born life than watch a movie starring Reeves. (And that's harsh, Sam was ugly as sin!) So, what is it about this guy that keeps people clamoring back for more? If you can explain it, please fill me in.

NEXT WEEK: The worst actress.

Note to Reader: If you vehemently disagree with the choice, feel free to write me and let me know who you would've picked and why. Know, though, that it won't change my mind. Reeves will always be the worst.

The Communicator, along with Confluence Literary Magazine (a division of ArtsGroup) and the Department of English and Linguistics presents:

# 50 Bucks FOR 50 Words

FINAL: The Communicator recieved a record number of entries for this year's 50 Bucks for 50 Words contest. The entries this year displayed a wide range of imagination and creation that were very enjoyable. We would like to thank each individual that participated in the contest and hope that you continue to show interest and support for The Communicator and Confluence Literary Magazine. The Communicator would also like to thank Sarah Sandman of Confluence for all of her help and support with this contest. Now, on to the first, second and third place winners:

2006 First place winner:

"A Game of Tag"
by Jeff Newman

"I'm outside playing tag!" Johnny called into the house. Alarmed, his parents ran after him. As they reached the door, gunshots were heard.

"Looks like Johnny won, Frank..."

The father sighed and stepped outside. "I won!" said Johnny.

"That a boy...Get inside," Frank said as he dug another grave.

Second Place Winner:

Untitled
by Lucas Cubic

He packs his bags, grabs his gun. Off to a faraway land. His family and wife, left behind, with promise of return. His promise is stolen by enemy rage. For her tear glazed eyes, she gets a flag. Self realization, only the dead, have seen the end of the war.

Third Place Winner:

"I do"
by Julia L. Parrish

After two weeks of him-hawing, it was time to commit to his wedding proposal. Driving to work, she pulled out her cell phone and dialed his number.

Texting, "I accept. Love you," she hit send. Content and relieved, she glanced up, seeing nothing but semi-truck headlights coming directly at her.

# Pair of wins gives team MIVA momentum boost

By Dan Vance
djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

The men's volleyball team wrapped up regular season play over the weekend hosting two teams from the Eastern Intercolligiate Volleyball Association and walking away with two victories.

On Friday night, the 10th-ranked Nittany Lions of Penn State visited the Hilliard Gates Sports Center to battle the Mastodons and jumped out to a 2-1 lead before IPFW rallied back to win the match 30-25, 27-30, 24-30, 30-28 and 15-10. It was the first time that Coach Jesse Ball's team had defeated Penn State since 2000.

"We've talked all year about this being a team and having players that could come in and help us. Jerrod Quillen, Michael Quinones and Mike Oaiga all came in and made a major contribution," Ball said of the victory. "When that happens, you get fresh legs and it changes your outlook, changes your flow, changes your chemistry. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. And (against Penn State) it worked."

Sophomore C.J. Macias was again explosive, leading the match with 24 kills including five as IPFW opened the match with a big single game win.

The back and forth first game saw IPFW rally to a 10-7 lead early on and the Mastodons never looked back as they led the rest of the way, increasing the lead to a game high five points for the win.

Games two and three were again back and forth for the two teams, but each saw the Nittany Lions with the advantage. In game two, Penn State led by four and were looking to put the Mastodons away when Matt Anderson committed back to back to back errors, opening the door for an IPFW comeback. But strong blocking from Anderson and Holt, who often helped form a triple block against Macias, led Penn State to the win.

In the third game, more attack errors hampered IPFW as their passing struggled and they were often unable to set up any players other than Macias, who the Nittany Lions were playing hard to lock down. The Mastodons never led in the game.

Penn State looked to be wrapping things up in game four as they jumped out to a 7-4 lead early on and led by as many as 13 points late at the score of 25-12.

But a huge 18-3 run lead the comeback for the Mastodons to take the game four win. Freshman Michael Quinones stepped in to serve with IPFW down 22-28 and helped the Mastodons to the win, finishing the game on a 12-0 run.

"People just give a spark to the team. Michael Quinones went in during game four and ripped off a bunch of serves. Those type of plays that come off the bench are huge for the team as far as excitement on the court," said senior Mike Oaiga.

Game five was all IPFW as they jumped out to a 7-3 lead, closing the deal and setting the upset on a kill from senior Serdar Sieka.

"It was one of the most exciting matches I have ever played in here," Sikca noted.

Sikca played Macias' right hand man with 14 kills and eight blocks. Sophomore Josh Stewart added nine kills while junior setter Colin Lundeen was all over the court for IPFW with 55 assists, six digs and seven blocks.

The Mastodons had a strong showing on defense with 44 total digs.

On Saturday night, IPFW hosted the struggling Rutgers-Newark Scarlet Raiders and picking up win number 20 for the season 30-28, 30-24, 30-28.

The Mastodons avoided a letdown after the previous night's comeback upset over Penn State to reach the 20-win plateau for the first time in six years.

"To start out the year at 2-5 and finish off 20-6 is pretty remarkable for this group of kids," Ball noted of the 20th win.

Macias led IPFW with 17 kills; the next most was seven from Sikca on Senior Night.

IPFW showed depth in the win, with all but one player seeing action. Juniors Quillen and Jason Hemphill each saw significant time, as did Quinones and freshman Vitor Oliveyla, who played libero for all of game three.

"We were just struggling with our passing so it's really good to have guys that come off the bench and fill in and take over those roles," Macias said.

The teams played back and forth ball early in game one, but IPFW took the lead for good at 22-21 on a service error from Rutgers' Graydon Ainsworth. Macias had four kills in the opener, joined by three each from Sikca, junior Josh Collins and sophomore Brock Ullrich.

In game two, IPFW jumped up 6-1, but Rutgers rallied back to tie things at seven with a strong showing from Danny McGowan. It was not enough, however, as the Mastodons rolled out to a 21-14 lead and wrapped up the game nine points later on a Sika kill. Macias and McGowan each had eight kills in the game. Game three again showed IPFW's diversity and ability to face adversity as a fresh lineup entered the game and sent Rutgers packing. Quinones picked up 15 assists after replacing Lundeen at setter to help IPFW to the win.

"The win tonight gave us a chance to play more kids and give them a chance to feel good about what their contribution is to our team," said Ball.

"It was a really great team effort," Oaiga added of the pair of weekend wins.

▶ MIVA
From Page A12

the passing back up, it's going to be really huge to get the middles involved and the outsides involved and keep teams guessing on what we are going to do with the volleyball," Macias added.

Despite winning 20 matches for the first time since 2000 and a 16-match win streak, the team is still looking forward.

"We still have goals to accomplish this year," senior Serdar Sikca added.

In the latest seed-six seed matchup, the Ball State Cardinals (20-6) will host Mercyhurst (3-20). Lewis, coached by Dan Friend, would be the sixth seed in the tournament, but are still facing NCAA sanctions due to violations from their National Championship team.

Instead, Mercyhurst, who have lost their last five, will take the sixth seed. 1-10 in the MIVA, Mercyhurst is led by a trio of hitters. Nate Keegan (245), Chad Proudman (238) and Tim Wagner (230) have each taken a turn in leading the team.

Dan Kick has been a force at setter with 881 assists. In the team's April 13 loss to Juniata, Kick broke the school's all-time assists record.

Ball State has defeated Mercyhurst two times this year, each by the score of 3-0. The Cardinals started the season 11-0 until a 3-1 loss to IPFW on Feb. 17. Ball State is 4-1 in the MIVA, split with conference champion Loyola-Chicago, and was the only team to defeat the MIVA champions in conference play this year.

Nick Meyer has become a strong player for Ball State, who has in the past looked a lot to Evan Berg. Berg, however, is fourth on the team in kills with 155. Meyer has 306 on the season and is third in the conference with 145 MIVA kills.

Dave Carlson has 911 assists (12.48/game) and has continued his standout ways for the Cardinals.

The winner of the Mercyhurst/Ball State match will play the winner of IPFW/ Carthage.

IPFW is 4-0 against Ball State and Mercyhurst.

In the third quarterfinal game, Ohio State (19-11) will host Quincy (12-16). The Buckeyes have beaten Quincy twice, each 3-0. The two teams ended their regular seasons against each other on April 15 with Ohio State winning 30-23, 34-32, 30-28.

A diversity of options has helped Ohio State to within one win of a 20-win season. Three players have reached over 200 kills for the season, led by Stuart Katz's 264. Mark Greaves has fallen off a bit this year, but is traditionally strong around tournament time.

"We've got to get a little more consistent and cut down on some errors," said Ohio State coach Pete Hanson. "The ones that we've lost, you can just look at our inconsistencies and not being able to string together good plays for a long enough period of time."

Ohio State won the MIVA Tournament last year, defeating IPFW in the finals. The Buckeyes have won three of the last six conference tournaments.

"When you are talking about the playoffs and what goes on inside the minds of these young athletes, it's anybody's guess and it's anybody's ballgame," Hanson said. "That's what makes the playoffs interesting is that you kind of throw out the previous records and it's all a matter of who shows up on that given day."

Jon Moreno leads Quincy averaging 3.58 kills per game and a total of 329. Six other Quincy players have 100 or more kills on the year, but the team has yet to turn that into consistency. The team has yet to win more than five straight matches.

The winner of the match will face the top-ranked Loyola-Chicago. The Ramblers have swept both Quincy and Ohio State this season, winning all matches 3-0.

Loyola has won their last six matches and has not lost since back-to-back losses to Hawai'i on March 17 and 18. They wrapped up their second straight conference regular season title in a row over IPFW two weeks ago and ended the season defeating Rutgers-Newark last Friday.

The Ramblers will have to go into the tournament a little cold as they have a first round bye and will not play for 15 days.

The tournament semi-finals will take place on April 27 with Loyola-Chicago playing at 7:30 p.m. against the winner of Quincy and Ohio State. The Ball State/Mercyhurst winner will play the winner of IPFW/ Carthage that day at 5 p.m. The two winners will advance to the finals on April 28 at 4 p.m. All semi-final and final matches will take place at Loyola-Chicago.

"You can't ever take anything for granted now. It takes one team on one hot night," Daiga said.

The winner of the tournament will advance to this year's Final Four, to be played at Penn State on May 4.

With the tournament drawing closer, Ball looks back fondly, knowing that his IPFW team has been special no matter how they fair in the conference tournament.

"No matter what happens from here on out, it has been a great year and I think each and every one of these kids will walk away from here saying 'Man, what a great experience and I am glad I was part of it.'"

▶ SENIORS
From Page A11

"Knowing each other well enough and knowing when each other are down and the right ways to pick each other up and knowing when to stay away a little bit is a big part of it," he said.

"We have an understanding of what we can and can't do on the field," Keena added.

Keena came in as one of the more high profile recruits from Homestead High School and rarely disappointed. The centerfielder hit .339 as a junior and is hitting a .342 this year with a team high 40 hits.

Even better, Keena has been ranked by the NCAA this year for stolen bases. He has stolen 22 on 27 attempts as a senior and has 86 career steals.

"Ryan Keena has a pulse," Gernon said of Keena's shot as a pro baseball prospect. "It's not as strong of a pulse as (former shortstop Ryan) Steinbach had, but it's a pulse. He brings an intangible that some guys don't have and that's speed and doesn't quit, doesn't dump."

Brent Alwine has also been starting since his freshman year at second base and has become a solid hitter in the lineup. The Mexico, Indiana native has the best career batting average of any of the seniors at .313 with a career best .336 in his sophomore season.

First baseman Caleb Smith has also batted over .300 (.311) in his time at IPFW. Despite never having a homerun or triple, Smith has been a consistent hitter with 115 hits. Like Fowler, Smith has spent much of the senior season injured with a bone chip in his wrist.

Sean Kirk batted .368 in his junior season with five homeruns to really establish himself as a key part of the class. He even spent most of the 2005 season ranked by the NCAA in batting average.

"What I have seen from these guys is a lot of maturation both physically and mentally. If I was here when they were freshman and did not come back until this year, I don't think that I would recognize a lot of them," Gernon said.

Three pitchers make up the senior class, only one of which came in on the mound. Travis Johnson has had no decisions thus far in his senior season and has spent much of his time at IPFW as a reliever. The Waynshant High School graduate has 39 career strikeouts and 34 walks.

Lambert started his first ever IPFW game in right field, but has become one of the strongest pitchers in the rotation. While 10-16 in his career, he has 66 strikeouts in 174 innings with 32 starts. Lambert has also been a provider on the batting end with five career homeruns and 35 RBI. Matt Hagedorn moved to pitcher this year after three years as a catcher. He batted a career high .250 last year but was limited to just 14 games due to injury.

Also part of the senior class is Brent Doty, who came in as a transplant from Lincoln Trail College, but has also quickly become part of the Mastodon family.

"The cornerstones of our program when we recruit are trust, work ethic, academic direction, passion, energy and all of those things we talk about that are important in our program - these guys bring that," Gernon noted while also staying that he is very proud of the academic stead of the program.

"It's going to be very difficult to me on May 23 at our banquet to say goodbye to them. I have just been so pleased with their development and so fortunate to coach them that it is really hard to put into words," he added.

The road trips and long seasons together has brought the class closer together according to several members of the team and has been a unique journey for many, including Fowler, who looks at that fact as a blessing.

"We don't do anything without each other and it's something that is going to last forever. Everybody is different in their own way yet we are all so much alike. You can't even describe

▶ BASEBALL
From Page A12

be said about this season, the latest on April 19 at No. 21 Notre Dame, who holds the longest winning streak in the country at 17 games. But the Mastodons have made noise in games they aren't expected to pull out, most notably the 1-0 win at Iowa on Mar. 25.

"Our guys don't have that mentality, though they might hear it from other people," Gernon said. "We have had some huge wins for this program this season."

The final 20 games of the season are peppered with teams such as Goshen College, Defiance College and Grace College, along with middle-of-the-road teams like Western Kentucky and South Dakota State. While this surely will result in more wins for IPFW, Gernon isn't too big of a fan of having to do it.

"I don't like to schedule non-Division I teams; I am not a big fan of it at all," Gernon said. "But hey, as an Independent, we are forced into having to do it."

This is the time of the season when conferences are in the midst of their regular-season schedules, with nearly all games for teams against other conference foes. For the Mastodons, scheduling non-Division I schools is the only option when teams in the Horizon, Mid-Con and MAC conferences don't have the time allotted to play the Mastodons.

"Both the MAC and the Horizon lost their bye weeks this year," said Gernon, referring to a week in which schools in those conferences were able to schedule teams out of conference, benefiting IPFW. "But playing teams such as Goshen is sometimes a plus, because it gives us a chance to evaluate freshmen and guys who haven't played much."

Last weekend, the Mastodons halted a four-game losing streak when it won three of four games over Chicago State (4-24). Don't let Chicago State's record confuse you, however. The program beat Washington State when it was ranked earlier this season and lost to Notre Dame 6-4.

"It is hard to beat a team four games in a row, but that was our primary goal (last weekend)," Gernon said. "But I think before the season starts if you look at a series of four games and you can win three of them, that's a pretty good deal."

Despite the Mastodons just barely halfway to their goal of 25 wins and even farther from 30 wins, which some projected the team could reach before the season began, IPFW has plenty of opportunities to get close to those numbers.

"The goal of 25 wins is still reachable, with 30 being just magical (if it happened)," Gernon said. "We let two or three games get away from us, but we got some arms that we hope can keep us in games."

This year's team is comparable in several categories to last season's 24-win campaign, but not in the speed category. While Ryan Keena and Zach Walton continue to tear up the baseposhs, stealing 34 bases between them, overall team speed has diminished a bit from a year ago.

"The production has been good this year, we are inching toward that .300 batting average as a team," Gernon said. "But we still have work to do."

While Gernon isn't necessarily happy with not being able to schedule more big games at home, he is happy for the fact that his team, particularly the 10 seniors, have every opportunity to play in front of family and friends at home. He is still looking to increase the home game count from 16-17 to above 20, but being home more late in the season is a plus.

"Parents can come out and watch their kids and it also helps with academics," Gernon said. "Being away three to four days a week in April can tend to get kids behind with classwork."

So as most teams head into the home stretch of their conference seasons, the Mastodons will look to pad their home record, where they are 6-2 so far this season.

### Recruiting news

IPFW already signed six players in the fall signing period for next season, but Gernon is looking to add plenty more prospects during the spring.

"We want a little bit more emphasis on filling the boat with pitchers," Gernon said. "We want to add some depth to that position. Typically, we have had 10-11 pitchers on the roster; I'd like to see that number around 14-15."

Gernon has said that he has received three commitments so far this spring, but cannot release their names due to all the paperwork not yet being in. One is said to be a fast, quick player out of a junior college in the mold of Ryan Keena.

"With the style we play, the scrappiness, the stealing bases, I'd like to continue to add those types of players," Gernon said. "I want to get some more guys that can produce in that area."

With the departure of 10 seniors, Gernon expects to bring in around 15 players next season.

### Andrew Porter update

Junior Andrew Porter, who transferred to IPFW from Blackhawk Community College and was considered to be the No. 1 starting pitcher heading into the season, has been shut down for the duration of the year.

Porter, who saw just 17 innings of action this season, has a small muscle tear in his left elbow and will take a medical red-shirt. Doctors say that he will need no surgery, but the injury will need four to six months to heal.

"There was a possibility he would have been ready for the end of the year, but we just shut him down," Gernon said. "It could have been a deal where he would have needed Tommy John surgery and would have been out one to two years. So, obviously, this is a better situation."

▶ BASKETBALL
From Page A10

Second Team and Team MVP. She was named County Player of the Year her junior season.

"Courtney is a true point guard," Paul said in the same press release. "She's a tremendous defensive player who is a leader on the floor.

"Both players bring energy and enthusiasm, which we expect from our players. We are extremely proud to add both Hannah and Courtney to our squad."

Thieke and Reed join two other previously signed recruits - centers Andrea Morrow and Leisalot Malfait.

Paul could not be reached to comment on the coaching search.

Photo by Dan Vance / djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

## Independent Tournament

**TOURNEY-TIME:** Freshman tennis player Ashley Hunter returns a ball in a recent match against Wright State on April 13. IPFW will host the third annual women's Independent Tournament on April 21 and 22 at the IPFW tennis courts on campus. The Mastodons look to improve on their third place finish at the tournament a season ago and have plenty of reason for confidence heading into the event with a program record 16 wins this season. For a preview of the tournament, check out Page A12.

# Sikca and Daiga: IPFW's two of a kind

By Dan Vance
djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

Photos by Eugene Harding / eharding@ipfwcommunicator.org

**SENIOR NIGHT:** Serdar Sikca (left) is one of two seniors for the men's volleyball team. Several members of Sikca's family traveled from his native Turkey for last weekend's matches. The other senior, Mike Daiga (right), also celebrated Senior Night with his family, including mother Rose Daiga (hugging coach Arnie Ball).

Saturday night at the Hilliard Gates Center marked the last home regular season game for two senior members of the men's volleyball team - Serdar Sikca and Mike Daiga.

For Sikca, the night was even more special as his family was in attendance to see him play for the first time in college.

"They hadn't seen me play in four years so they were really excited that we get really good crowds here in the gym. They were really excited to see how everybody got into (the Penn State match)."

Sikca's family, including his parents, Serdar and Refah, and his 71-year-old grandmother were in attendance for both Saturday's match with Rutgers-Newark and Friday night's upset of Penn State.

"That was awesome," Sikca added of having his family in attendance.

On senior night, Sikca packed up seven kills, two solo blocks and four block assists.

Over his career at IPFW, Sikca has been a starter at middle hitter almost every match and has been a two-time All-MIVA First Team selection. He has totaled 799 career kills and 158 digs.

As a freshman, Serdar put up 16 total blocks (all block assists) against Ohio State, a total that is still his career high. As a junior, Sikca set the IPFW single season records for hitting percentage (.417) and block assists (144). This season, he passed former Mastodon and current assistant coach Ryan Perrotte for the all-time school block assist record.

Sikca currently has 490 career block assists to Perrotte's 429. Sikca has also amassed 90 career solo blocks for a total of 580 blocks.

"It was a great ride for four years. This school and this program have really given me a lot and I can't thank them enough. They gave me moments to remember for the rest of my life," Sikca said.

"That middle blocking position is so critical to the success of your defense and he's one of the best blockers that has ever been here," said coach Arnie Ball.

Consistently the right hand man and the first option in the middle, Sikca developed into a true leader this season according to Ball.

"Over the lean years, he has been one of the mainstays," Ball noted. "I can't say enough about his contributions and what he has meant to our team in particular this year because he has taken over the leadership role and really done a nice job."

Also leaving the Mastodon program at the year's end is Daiga, who has been labeled Mr. Versatility over the last two years.

"Playing through all kinds of different elements and making a commitment and going through with it, it's been a great four years," Daiga said. "Too look back at it, it has developed me a lot."

In 2005, Daiga stepped away from his traditional middle hitter role and split time at starting setter with Mike Randolph. Without a true setter in the lineup, Ball looked to Daiga to make an impact, and he did. Over his time at the position, he picked up 483 of his 510 career assists.

Daiga also played in the hitter position some, still picking up 41 kills as a junior. In his career, Daiga has amassed 260 kills, including 119 in a breakout sophomore season where he also compiled 115 of his 253 career blocks in the middle.

In his senior season, Daiga has seen his time go down, but has still been a very vocal leader for the young team.

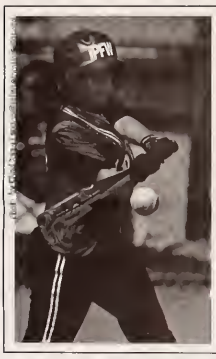
"Mike Daiga is the ultimate team player," Ball said. "Of all the kids I have ever coached, he's as much of a coach's dream as anyone you will ever get. He is willing to do whatever you ask him to do, including sit on the bench, and that takes a pretty big person to do that."

On senior night, Daiga played strong in the starting lineup with six kills and three blocks. But for him, the family atmosphere of Senior Night was something that he has become accustomed to at IPFW, and something that he always enjoys.

"This program has always acted like a big family. Having my family here was great but having Serdar's family down here from Turkey is just awesome. I was so happy for him to have that opportunity," Daiga said.

"Teams that act like family succeed and I think that is why our team is doing well this year."

Though honored before the Rutgers-Newark game, the two seniors will play their final home match Saturday at the Gates Center as the Mastodons host Carthage in the first round of the MIVA Tournament.



## Senior Day

**A CONNECTION IS MADE:** Jenna Beachy connects for a hit in IPFW's game against Indiana Wesleyan on Monday, April 10 at Mastodon Field. The senior is second on the team in batting average (.327), hits (32), doubles (4), RBI (14), total bases (39) and is tied for games played (34) as of April 18. Beachy is the lone senior on the field for the young Mastodons squad this season because first baseman Heather DeVore went down very early with a shoulder injury. Beachy has been an excellent offensive player for the Mastodons over her four years, compiling a career .327 batting average, 29 doubles, 26 home runs, 81 RBI and just 73 strikeouts in 492 at-bats as of April 18. She will be honored at Senior Day on Thursday, April 20 at 3 p.m.

# Paul signs two for '06-'07 season

By Nick West
nwest@ipfwcommunicator.org

Chris Paul has signed two players to reload his roster for the 2006-07 season, but has yet to sign the two assistants he said he would upon his promotion from interim to head coach on March 22.

Hannah Thieke, a 5-foot-9 guard from Western High School in Kokomo, will bring versatility to the roster because she can play either guard position or small forward. Courtney Reed, a 5-foot-7 guard from Fort Laramie High in Fort Laramie, OH will bring tenacious defense and provide depth at the point guard position behind senior Ashley Johnson.

The two assistants should be hired by the beginning of May.

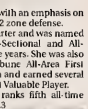
Thieke chose IPFW over IUPUI because she felt like the school expressed more interest in her and it was a better fit, according to a Kokomo Tribune story on March 27.

"I really liked the campus," Thieke told the newspaper. "The campus is gorgeous and it's not too big and it's not too small. It fits me better than any other one. And then the basketball program, that's just like how I've always player throughout high school. I like their style of play."

IPFW's style is up-tempo with an emphasis on the fast break offense and 3-2 zone defense.

Thieke was a four year starter and was named to the All-Conference, All-Sectional and All-Kokomo area teams for three years. She was also named to the Kokomo Tribune All-Area First Team for the 2005-06 season and earned several team awards, including Most Valuable Player.

Her 1,106 career points ranks fifth all-time at Western. She averaged 16.3 points and 5.6 rebounds per game her senior season. Her scholarship is a full ride.



Paul

"Hannah is a very talented player who brings speed and athleticism," Paul said in a press release. "She's a very good three-point shooter who can play the one, two or three."

Reed averaged 13.9 points and 2.5 rebounds per game her senior year. She is Fort Laramie's all-time three-point shot-maker (124) and assist leader (367). She also set the school mark with 45 made three-pointers in a single season last year.

She received multiple eight awards her senior year, including All-County First Team, All-Ohio

▶ BASKETBALL: Page A9

# No change atop new AVCA polls

UC-Irvine used a weekend victory over UC-Santa Barbara and their first ever Mountain Pacific Sports Federation regular season championship to stay atop the the April 18 Division I polls of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

The polls are the final before the postseason begins for all Division I teams.

The Anteaters claimed 15 of 16 first place votes, with the only other going to Hawai'i who stays second in the polls, 14 points behind UC-Irvine.

Cal State Northridge dropped from third to sixth in the polls allowing Long Beach State back into the top three. Pepperdine (4) and BYU (5) round out the top five in the polls.

UCLA and MIVA regular season champions Loyola-Chicago traded spots with UCLA taking over seventh in the polls. Loyola-Chicago did pick up a win over the weekend against Rutgers-Newark despite their drop in the polls. Three points back in ninth is UC-Santa Barbara.

IPFW broke into the top 10 for the first time in 2006 after pulling an upset of Penn State in five games. The Mastodons were previously ranked 12th for many consecutive weeks.

The Mastodons' 95 points puts them 21 out of ninth place and up on 11th by 17 points. The number one team is 144 points up on Coach Arnie Ball's team.

Penn State drops to 11th while USC drops one spot to 12th.

George Mason, Ball State and Ohio State did not move in the new polls and round out the top 15. Pacific, who dropped out of the top 15 last week, was not listed on two or more ballots.

New polls released on April 24 will be based on the first round of conference tournaments played over the weekend.

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# Seniors continue to experience growth through bonds

■ *Senior class of 10 looking to lead coach Billy Gernon and IPFW to its third straight 20-win season*

By Dan Vance
djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

It was Feb. 28, 2003 when it all began. IPFW, led by then second year coach Billy Gernon, took the field at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee starting four freshmen from an unusually large class.

Four years later, there they are again. Tyler Fowler is still hitting a high percentage (3-of-5 in that first game in 2003) and Ryan Keena is still stealing the base paths (had his first that day against Cumberland).

And eight more - they are still doing their things too.

Some have changed - Matt Hagedorn and Eric Lambert have each moved from the field to the mound, but mostly it is the same.

"I had a choice when we went Division 1 to load up with junior college players and win right away or plant a bunch of small trees and nurture them and water them and watch them grow and build good team chemistry. And that all did happen," Gernon says now looking back.

Over the past three and a half seasons, the class has thrived despite losing several players. But still 10 of the originals have stayed. Among them are three (Fowler, Keena and Zach Walton) who have played in and started all 30 games thus far in the 2006 season.

Fowler is batting .255, his second lowest season to date. Ironically his lowest season in batting average was the one that got him a lot of attention. In his sophomore year, Fowler hit four homeruns including three in one week. The third baseman has three of his eight career long balls this year.

He has started all but three games thus he has played in during his collegiate career despite some nagging injuries. He has spent much of this season with a floating bone chip in his ankle.

"To be a part of something and help build that was our main goal," Fowler says. "To watch how over the last four years that we have improved as a team has been really great."

Walton has struggled this year after a strong junior showing where he had 41 hits and three homeruns. Walton has also been successful on 43-of-46 stolen base attempts including all 12 this year.

While rooming with Fowler and Lambert at IPFW, Walton has also been playing baseball with Keena since early in their teen years. For Walton, the bond that he has developed with those three and the rest of the class has helped greatly on the field.

"The bond is the mental part of it. Because with baseball, there is a lot more mental than there is physical. It may sound weird, but there is."

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Photo by Dan Vance / djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT:** Senior Tyler Fowler prepares to hit during a brief batting practice session between games with Chicago State last Saturday afternoon. Fowler has started all but three games he has played in at IPFW.

# Men's tennis ends year with tough loss

## Sports Wrap

By Nick West
nwest@ipfwcommunicator.org

The IPFW men's tennis team wrapped up it's most successful season in bittersweet fashion.

**Gonzalez**

IPFW won 11 games this season, three more than the program's previous high. But the team lost four of its last five to superior competition, including a season-ending loss at Buffalo on April 16.

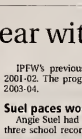
Buffalo stymied IPFW's chance at picking up its first win against the Mid-American Conference this season and the Mastodons finished 0-5 against the conference.

Senior Carlos Gonzalez ended his career with a straight set victory and sophomore Nathan Jones picked up IPFW's other point in the 5-2 loss.

Daniel Jackson and Jones won their doubles match, but Buffalo took the other two and the point.

IPFW's previous win total was eight in 2004-05 and 2001-02. The program won seven games in 2002-03 and 2003-04.

### Suel paces women's track



**Ritchey**

Angie Suel had personal bests in five events and broke three school records in the process at the MSU Spartan Invitational last weekend.

She competed in the 100 meter hurdles, 200 meter dash, javelin, Shot Put and Long Jump in preparation for the Heptathalon event at the Hillsdale "Gina" Relays on April 28 and 29.

The school records were in the 100 meter hurdles (15.21 seconds), 200 meter run (25.36 seconds) and the Long Jump (5.41 meters).

"She had an outstanding day," coach Mike Fruchey said in a press release. "She had personal bests in all five events, which bodes well for her upcoming Heptathalon competition."

Ashley Ritchey broke the record in the 3,000 meter run with an impressive time of 10:17.58. She placed fourth.

# IPFW softball team wins three of four

■ *Bigger bats and better fielding help Mastodons sweep Notre Dame and split with Valparaiso*

By Megan Yoder
myoder@ipfwcommunicator.org

"Our bats have to come alive."

Softball coach Keither Fisher has emphasized all year the difference between the wins and the losses for the 8-26 Mastodons (as of April 18).

In their first doubleheader sweep of the season, the Mastodons did just that, scoring 14 runs in five innings against the Falcons. After falling behind in the top of the second inning by two runs, the Mastodons batted with patience and capitalized on a walk and an error to score both runs off of a single by Jenna Beachy.

Keeping the rhythm going in the fourth, a double by Angie Pasquali, singles by Jessica Mast, Ashley Johnson and Abby Liden led to five more runs.

Again in the sixth, the Mastodons showed their patience and capitalized on their opponent's errors, walking twice to set up an RBI test by Johnson, Liden and Kacie Stone for six runs and an eight run mule finish after the fifth. IPFW won 14-6.

After the decisive first win, the Mastodons started sophomore pitcher Natalie Clark for the second game of the day. A more difficult victory for the Mastodons, but the bats again counteracted the Falcons' offense. Clark went until the top of the seventh when she was relieved by Jenna Connelly. Three of the Falcons' five runs went unearned, a problem that has plagued IPFW all season.

However, hard work by the meat of the Mastodon lineup in a string of hits by Pasquali, Johnson, Stone and Liden culminated in a grand slam homerun by Beachy for five more runs.

Problems in the seventh plagued IPFW again on defense. Four hits and one error led to two more runs. The bases were loaded after Connelly inherited two runners and gave up a single, but she strike out the final batter for the third out of the game and IPFW won 8-5.

After such an impressive finish against Notre Dame College on Thursday April 13 IPFW had trouble offensively and defensively as the Mastodons gave up three unearned runs. Beachy and Liden each had a hit, but that was all IPFW would get in that game. Freshman Katie Aspegren was replaced by Clark in the fourth, but the loss was charged to Aspegren - her 10th of the season.

Connelly started the second game and earned her third win of the season. Only allowing three hits, two walks and one run in seven innings, it was a most impressive performance by the right hander.

After not supporting the pitcher in the game one loss, the Mastodons' bats came alive after three scoreless innings in the top of the fourth with one run.

Valparaiso tied it up and went ahead in the sixth, but with two outs in the bottom of the seventh, a single by Stone, double by Beachy and triple by freshman Kayla Vargo pushed the Mastodons ahead. A single by freshman Michelle Meighen would take the lead to five, and Connelly finished in superb fashion, retiring the final three to end the game and give IPFW a 5-1 win.

Thursday, April 20 is senior day and IPFW will square off against Valparaiso again in a doubleheader at 3 p.m. IPFW heads to Dayton on April 23 for a doubleheader then returns home for an April 24 doubleheader at 3 p.m. - the final home games of the season.

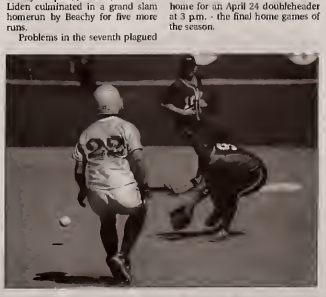


Photo by Chad Ryan / cryan@ipfwcommunicator.org

**STREAK:** IPFW's Ashley Johnson gets in position to field a ground ball as Indiana Weslyan's Jenifer Nyhuis runs toward second base in a recent game between the Mastodons and Wildcats at Mastodon Field.

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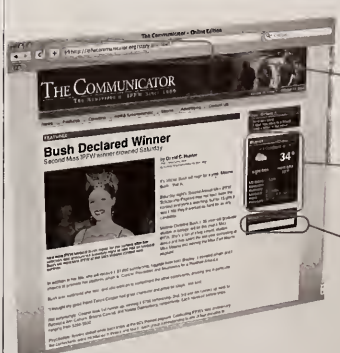


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Another example of how the best way to get your IPFW news keeps getting better.

As you have probably noticed, we've made some changes.

We're remodeling, not just in going digital with our new, custom-built website, but in the print edition of The Communicator as well. We've redesigned our newspaper and our offices in an effort to give more to our campus than ever before.

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SPORTS PAGE EDITOR
Nick West
nwest@ipfwcommunicator.com
(260) 481-6584

# Sports

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
vol. XXXVI, issue XXVIII

## Four teams vie to top the INDEPENDENT RANKS

For the first time in its history, IPFW will host the third annual women's Division I Independent Tournament. Serve time begins at 10 a.m. on April 21 and continues the following day at the tennis courts on IPFW's campus.

### THE TEAMS

**IPFW**
- After starting the season 2-6, the Mastodons zipped off 14 wins in their last 19 games to finish the season 16-11, the most wins in IPFW's Division I history.

**TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI**
- The Islanders went 4-3 down the stretch. They have a strong singles team with only one player having less than a .500 record this season.

**NORTHERN COLORAOO**
- Hovering below an even record all season, the 8-11 Bears have one more match this week before they travel to Fort Wayne. All of the other teams completed their seasons at least a week in advance of the tournament, so will the Bears' April 18 match keep them in top mental shape? Or wear them out just three days before a long road trip here?

**TEXAS PAN AMERICAN**
- The Bronco are 7-11 this season with three of their victories coming via forfeit. But don't underestimate their doubles team that has a 22-22 overall record

### THE PLAYERS (#1 Singles)

**Sachi Janek • IPFW**
- The local product (Northcap) was a big-time recruit in the off-season and her play has paid dividends for the Mastodons. Expect big things from this freshman.

**Carmen Abeaboeru • TAMCC**
- This Romanian has been a consistent force all season. She finished with a 9-6 overall record and was 7-3 at No. 1 singles. Her teammates' have a 0-5 record at the position.

**Karen Groll • N. Colorado**
- Her play as a freshman last year helped the Bears to a first-place finish in the tournament, but she has been a bit inconsistent for them this year. Can the turn it around?

**Silke Buksik • Texas Pan Am**
- This position has been the team's Achilles heel all season long, with a 3-11 record. In fact, the team has struggled in singles play, compiling a 44-57 overall record.

### THE HEAD-TO-HEAD (w/Eric Burns)

**IPFW vs. Corpus Christi - Friday at 10 a.m.**

"A very deep team compared to others we've faced. Their players live and die are experienced and it'll be tough wins. But I think we can match up with them

**IPFW vs. Northern Colorado - Fri. at 3 p.m.**

"Another good team. Very similar to Corpus Christi – they were neck-and-neck last year at the tournament. But they are probably a little less deeper than Corpus Christi and definitely in the five and six places we look to pick up points."

**IPFW vs. Texas Pan Am - Saturday at 10 a.m.**

"They are definitely improved over last year. I expect them to be tough, too. All teams as far as are good…it's a year round deal there, a big state with lots of kids there and I'm sure there are a lot of great players."

### THE SPOKESMAN

"It is exciting for us to host it and bring in some teams from different parts of the country … we are looking forward to hosting it. We feel like we can beat anyone right now and that has been the general attitude over the past two months. If we play good tennis, we will have a shot at this tourney I think. But there is no margin for error against good teams."

**Eric Burns**
**IPFW Coach**

# the battle for MIVA BRAGGING RIGHTS

*Conference tournament begins this week with IPFW taking the No. 2 seed; regular season champions Loyola get a bye*

**By Dan Vance / djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org**

One year ago, IPFW pulled off the upset. The year before, it was Lewis. Upsets have become a trend in the Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Tournament.

This year is no exception to the tradition of a tough crop of teams in the tournament.

Seeds one through six were determined by the final standings of the Shondell/Dunlap Division and the seventh seed was determined from the Coleman Division Tournament.

On Saturday, the second seeded IPFW Mastodons (20-6) will play host to the Carthage Redmen (12-12), the winners of the Coleman Tournament.

Carthage defeated MSDE and Clarke to advance to the MIVA Tournament.

The Redmen also boast a Division III All-American in T.J. Bellei. Despite not playing strong in the Coleman Tournament, Bellei did have 10 kills in a previous meeting with IPFW. Recently leading Carthage has been Shane Dixon, who put up 27 kills and seven digs against MSDE and 18 kills and eight digs against Clarke.

Setter Matt Ulmer posted 54 assists in the victory over Clarke.

"They have a couple of nice middles, they have a libero who is energetic and fiery. And they have absolutely nothing to lose and everything to gain coming in here," said IPFW coach Arnie Ball.

The two teams opened the 2006 season against each other with IPFW walking away with the 3-0 (30-14, 30-23, 30-23) win. The match saw IPFW sophomore C.J. Macias post a season low in kills, something he has overcome throughout the season on his way to 544 total kills. Macias, an All-American candidate, was second in the country in total kills and third in kills/game in statistics released April 11 by the NCAA.

Macias, however, is not overlooking what Carthage can do.

"They are one of the top D-III, teams, so they are really good. They are pretty well rounded and they will fight, play hard and play some scrappy defense," Macias said. "We just need to come out and get on them early and hopefully they will roll over."

Ball agrees with Macias, but knows that IPFW has to improve on the passing and blocking problems that hampered the Mastodons in their last regular season match - a win over Rutgers-Newark.

"We can't play like we did (against Rutgers-Newark) and expect them to roll over because that won't happen," Ball said.

"It's a game that we really, really need to talk about in regards to preparation because you can't look past these kind of teams."

IPFW has won 18 of their last 19 matches while Carthage is the winner of their last three. However, the Redmen have not played since April 1.

As far as what IPFW will work on heading into their match with the Redmen, most find it difficult to make many changes this late in the season.

"There is not a lot that you can do skills wise at this point. You can always get to know each other a little better and just polish up the skills a little bit," senior Mike Daiga said.

"Our passing is getting a little sketchy; we need to work on that. Our serving, our blocking, we just need to work on the game we've been playing all year," added Macias.

The sophomore outside hitter also says that the team will need to strive for diversity in their sets, something they struggled with last weekend against Penn State and Rutgers-Newark.

"If we don't get the good passes, it's hard to run everybody else. Once we pick

▶ MI A: Page A9

**#1 Loyola-Chicago**
22-6 (11-1)
Coach: Shane Davis
The Player: Chris Kosfeld • 42 kills vs. IPFW in '06. All-American Candidate

**#2 IPFW**
20-6 (9-3)
Coach: Arnie Ball
The Player: C.J. Macias • 544 kills • 3.55 per game, 3 aces, 195 digs

**#3 Ball State**
20-6 (8-4)
Coach: Joel Walton
The Player: Nick Meyer • 306 kills, 22 aces, 142 digs, 62 total blocks

**#4 Ohio State**
19-11 (7-5)
Coach: Pete Hanson
The Player: Mark Greaves • 108 kills • 10 kills in 2005 MIVA Finals

**#5 Quincy**
12-14 (3-9)
Coach: Niels Pedersen
The Player: Jon Moreno • 429 kills, 160 digs, 10 aces, 54 block assists

**#5 Mercyhurst**
3-20 (1-10)
Coach: Ryan Patton
The Player: Tim Wagner • 230 kills, 15 aces, 99 digs, 9 games played

**#7 Carthage**
12-12 (3-10)
Coach: L.J. Marx
The Player: T.J. Bellei • DIII All-American, .335 hitting percentage

**Not Eligible - Lewis**
10-18 (3-9)
The Coach: Dan Friend • Lewis would be the #6 seed if not for sanctions

# Mastodons gear up for stretch run

**By Justin Kenny**
jkenny@ipfwcommunicator.org

IPFW baseball's tough mid-season schedule is for the most part behind them; now we will see if the team can take advantage.

After a mid-season swing against teams like NCAA Tournament team Dayton, Big 10 powerhouse Iowa and top-notch Mid-Con team Central Michigan, the Mastodons (14-16 through April 17) enter the final month or so of the season with a chance to gain momentum heading into the Division I Independent Tournament in South Dakota.

"I like to call this the 'make hey' part of our season," coach Billy Gernon said. "There are some wins out there we can gain, three-game sets against teams of our caliber."

You never want to tell a team that they are "expected" to lose, but IPFW has had several games that that could

▶ BA EBALL: Page A9

THROW: Senior Eric Lambert throws against Chicago State.

Dan Vance/ djvance@ipfwcommunicator.org